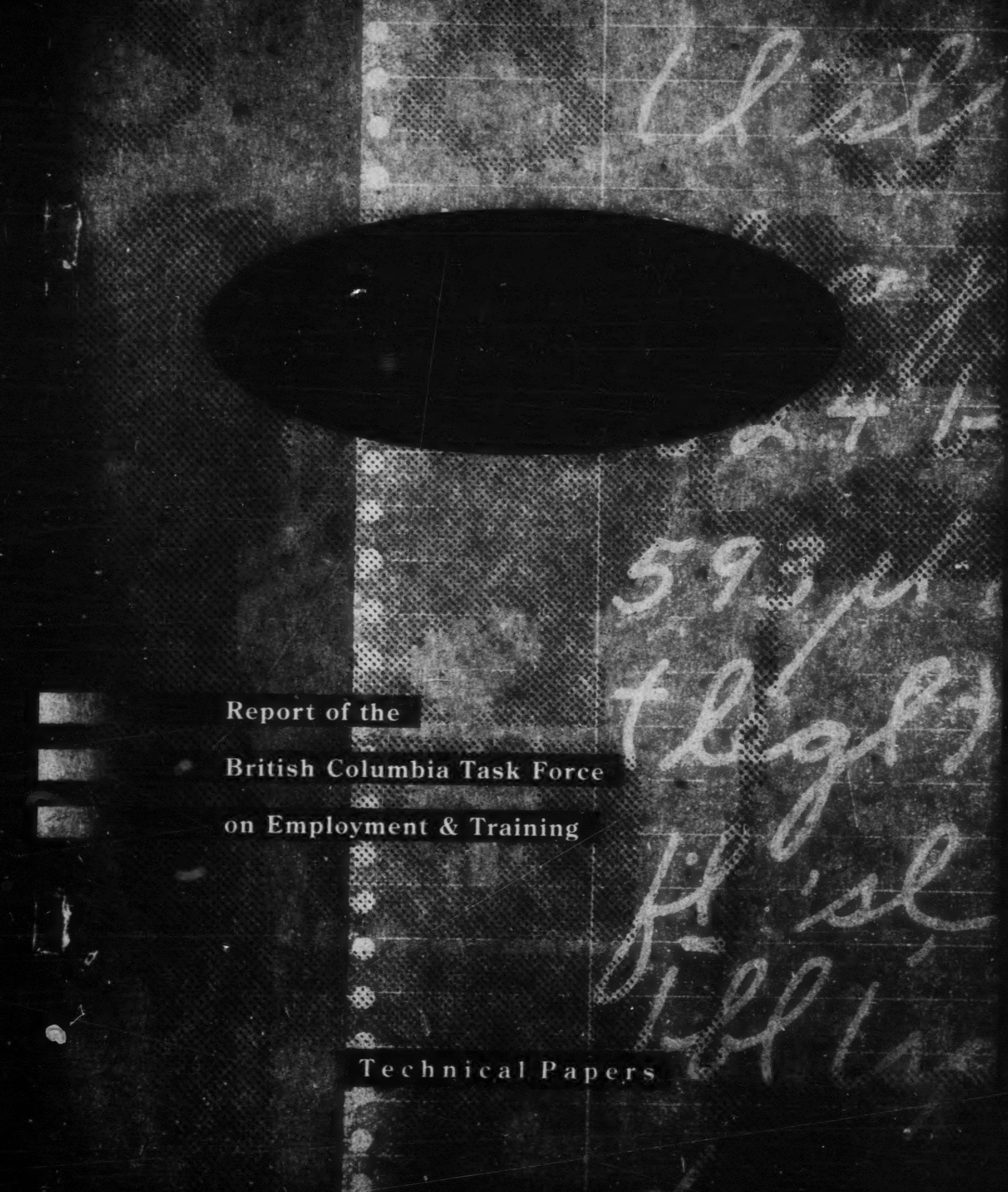

Report of the British Columbia Task Force on Employment & Training

Technical Papers

STATISTICAL REVIEW OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA LABOUR MARKET

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GLOSSARY

Working Age Population	-	Statistics Canada defines the working age population as all of those 15 years of age or older excluding members of the military, natives living on reserve, and people living in institutionalized settings. Population counts and projections in **Section 1** include all British Columbia residents over 14 years of age and under 65 years of age.
Age/Sex Group	-	Population and labour force statistics are often divided into age/sex groups. Age groups are usually five year groups (15 to 19, 20 to 24, 25 to 29, etc.) or ten year groups (15 to 24, 25 to 34, 35 to 44, etc.).
Employed	-	All of those working for pay or profit.
Unemployed	-	All of those who are not employed but who are actively looking for work and are available to start work. Those who are sick, injured, or on strike are not considered to be unemployed.
Labour Force	-	All of those who are either working for pay or profit or who are looking for work and are available for work. The labour force is the sum of all who are employed, plus all who are unemployed.
Part-Time Work	-	Work typically involving fewer than 30 paid hours per week.
Employment Rate	-	The proportion of the working age population (or sub group of the working age population) working for pay or profit.
Labour Force Participation Rate	-	The proportion of the working age population (or subgroup of the working age population) that is either working for pay or profit, or is actively looking and is available for work.
Unemployment Rate	-	The proportion of the labour force consisting of those who are without work and are actively looking for work.

1. POPULATION

Overall Population Growth

At the time of the last Census in 1986, the working age population in British Columbia, including those 15 years of age or older, was 2,296,900. At that time the two largest age groups were 15 to 24 (19.1% of the total population aged 15 and over) and 25 to 34 (22.1% of the population aged 15 and over). It is estimated that by 1989 the population 15 years of age and over had increased to 2,433,800. In 1989 the two largest age groups were 25 to 34 (21.5% of the total) and 35 to 44 (19.8% of the total).

Table 1.1 shows how the population age 15 and over is expected to grow to the year 2016, and how the relative sizes of the age groups are expected to change. Overall, from 1989 to 2016, the working age population is expected to grow at an annual (compounding) rate of 1.77%. However, the population below age 35 is expected to grow at an annual compounding rate of only 0.8%, compared to a rate of 2.27% among those over age 35. The two largest age groups in 2016 are expected to be those aged 55 to 64 (16.1% of the population aged 15 and over) and those over age 65 (22.1% of the population aged 15 and over). The changes which are anticipated, from 1989 to the year 2016, in the way the population is distributed among age groups are depicted in **Figure 1.1.**

By 2016, the total working age population in British Columbia is expected to be 3,903,300, an increase of 1,469,500, or of 60.4% compared to 1989.

Table 1.2 summaries total population values (including those 14 years of age and under), both past and forecast. In addition, the table addresses the issue of the aging of the population by showing the median age. The median age exactly divides the population in half. In other words, 50% of the population is younger than the median age and 50% is older. In 1975, the median age of British Columbians was 28.7. By 1989 it had reached 34.2 and by 2016, it is anticipated that the median age will be 41.2.

Components of Population Growth

Population growth (or change) is the result of three components: natural increase, interprovincial migration and international migration, or immigration. Natural increase in the total population is the difference between the number of births and deaths in any given year. In the working age population it is the difference between the number of deaths of those over age 14 and the number of young people reaching age 15.

Table 1.3 shows historical data on gross and net interprovincial migration as it has affected British Columbia in the years 1975-76 to 1989-90, on gross and net international migration, and on the number of births and the number of deaths. In addition, **Table 1.3** shows projected values, from 1990-91 to 2015-16.

Migration consists of two components, these being "in" and "out" migration. The difference between these two, described as net migration, may add or subtract from total population. In British Columbia negative net migration has been observed in years when the provincial economy was weak, relative to the economies in other provinces.

International migration, or immigration, also consists of two components, these being the total number of people from the countries other than Canada arriving in British Columbia (immigration) and the total number of people leaving Canada, from British Columbia (emigration). The difference is decribed as net immigration.

Figure 1.2 provides a review of net interprovincial migration, net immigration and natural increase for the years 1976 to 1991, as well as forecast values. As the figure shows, net interprovincial migration has been by far the most variable component of population change, ranging from an (estimated) value of +40,500 in 1990-91, to a value of -4,500 in 1985-86. Net immigration has also varied from an (estimated) high of +24,100 in 1990-91 to lows of +4,900 in 1978-79 and in 1984-85. Natural increase has gradually grown from about +17,100 in 1975-76 to about +23,300 in 1990-91.

Forecast values represent attempts to identify long-term trends in these values. As an inspection of **Figure 1.2** will show it is anticipated that net interprovincial migration will be the largest component of population growth in most years and particularly, after 1998-99. Natural increase is expected to be a diminishing component of population growth, which is consistent with the aging of large proportions of the population past childbearing years and into years with high mortality rates.

As **Figure 1.3** shows, British Columbia is the recipient of many in-migrants, even in years of relatively weak economic activity. The number of out-migrants appears to have declined in the latter half of the 1970's and it stabilized in the 40,000 to 50,000 range in the 1980's. For the most part, the variation in net in-migration is the result in changes in the number of people coming to British Columbia from other provinces, rather than in the number of people leaving British Columbia to go to other locations in Canada.

As **Table 1.4** and **Figure 1.4.1** show, net migration predominantly tends to affect the population in the prime working age groups. About 55% of migrants have been in the 25 to 64 year age range and most (about 30% to 35%) have in the 25 to 44 year age range. **Figures 1.4.2** and **1.4.3** show that in all age ranges, migrants are fairly evenly distributed between men and women.

Table 1.3 provides a review of historical inflows of immigrants coming to British Columbia and of emigrants leaving the province, as well as forecasts of both. Values are depicted graphically in **Figure 1.5**. Like out-migration, emigration involves relatively small and relatively constant numbers. The number of immigrant arrivals varies widely from year to year. In the past, the fewest immigrants arrived in British Columbia in 1978-79 (12,100) and it is anticipated that the most will have arrived in 1990-91 (29,300). In the future it is anticipated that the number of people leaving British Columbia and going to non-Canadian destinations will average about 7,000 to 8,700 per year, while immigrants choosing to settle in British Columbia will average about 28,600 to 31,000 per year.

As **Table 1.4** and **Figures 1.6** and **1.7** show, the predominant source areas for immigrants arriving in British Columbia have altered significantly in the last twenty years. In 1968, 44.3% of all of those immigrating to British Columbia came from Europe, 21.6% from Asia, 21.2% from the United States and 12.8% from other areas. In 1990, 14.7% came from Europe, 69.5% from Asia, 4.4% from the United States and 11.5% came from other areas.

Overview of Components of Population Growth

Summing each element of population growth over a period of time can provide some perspective on the relative importance of each component to overall population growth. As shown in **Table 1.5**, 39.4% of the total of all growth elements in the years 1975 to 1981 consisted of interprovincial migrants, 23.3% consisted of immigrants and 37.3% consisted of natural increase. From 1981 to 1989 the corresponding values were 21.8% for migrants, 25.3% for immigrants and 52.8% was natural increase. It is anticipated that from 1989 to 2016 the proportions will be 41.0% migrants, 34.1% immigrants and 24.9% natural increase.

Table 1.1

Population Estimates: 1975 - 1989 and Forecasts: 1996 - 2016
British Columbia, Both Sexes

Year		15-24 Years	25-34 Years	35-44 Years	45-54 Years	55-64 Years	65+ Years	Total
1975	(000)	450.3	380.5	275.5	267.1	218.6	234	1826.1
	Percent of Total	24.7%	20.8%	15.1%	14.6%	12.0%	12.8%	100.0%
1976	(000)	459.4	395.8	279.9	268.7	225.8	242.1	1871.7
	Percent of Total	24.5%	21.1%	15.0%	14.4%	12.1%	12.9%	100.0%
1986	(000)	439.5	507.5	429.8	293.7	276.4	350	2296.9
	Percent of Total	19.1%	22.1%	18.7%	12.8%	12.0%	15.2%	100.0%
1989	(000)	425.5	523.6	481.9	324.4	284.3	394.1	2433.8
	Percent of Total	17.5%	21.5%	19.8%	13.3%	11.7%	16.2%	100.0%
1996	(000)	452.4	536.4	562.5	460.6	320.4	493	2825.3
	Percent of Total	16.0%	19.0%	19.9%	16.3%	11.3%	17.4%	100.0%
2001	(000)	485.9	534.1	589	547.6	384.3	557	3097.9
	Percent of Total	15.7%	17.2%	19.0%	17.7%	12.4%	18.0%	100.0%
2006	(000)	521.9	554.9	591.8	595.5	491.8	626.1	3382
	Percent of Total	15.4%	16.4%	17.5%	17.6%	14.5%	18.5%	100.0%
2016	(000)	562.2	618.3	605.9	625.8	628.7	862.4	3903.3
	Percent of Total	14.4%	15.8%	15.5%	16.0%	16.1%	22.1%	100.0%

Figure 1.1

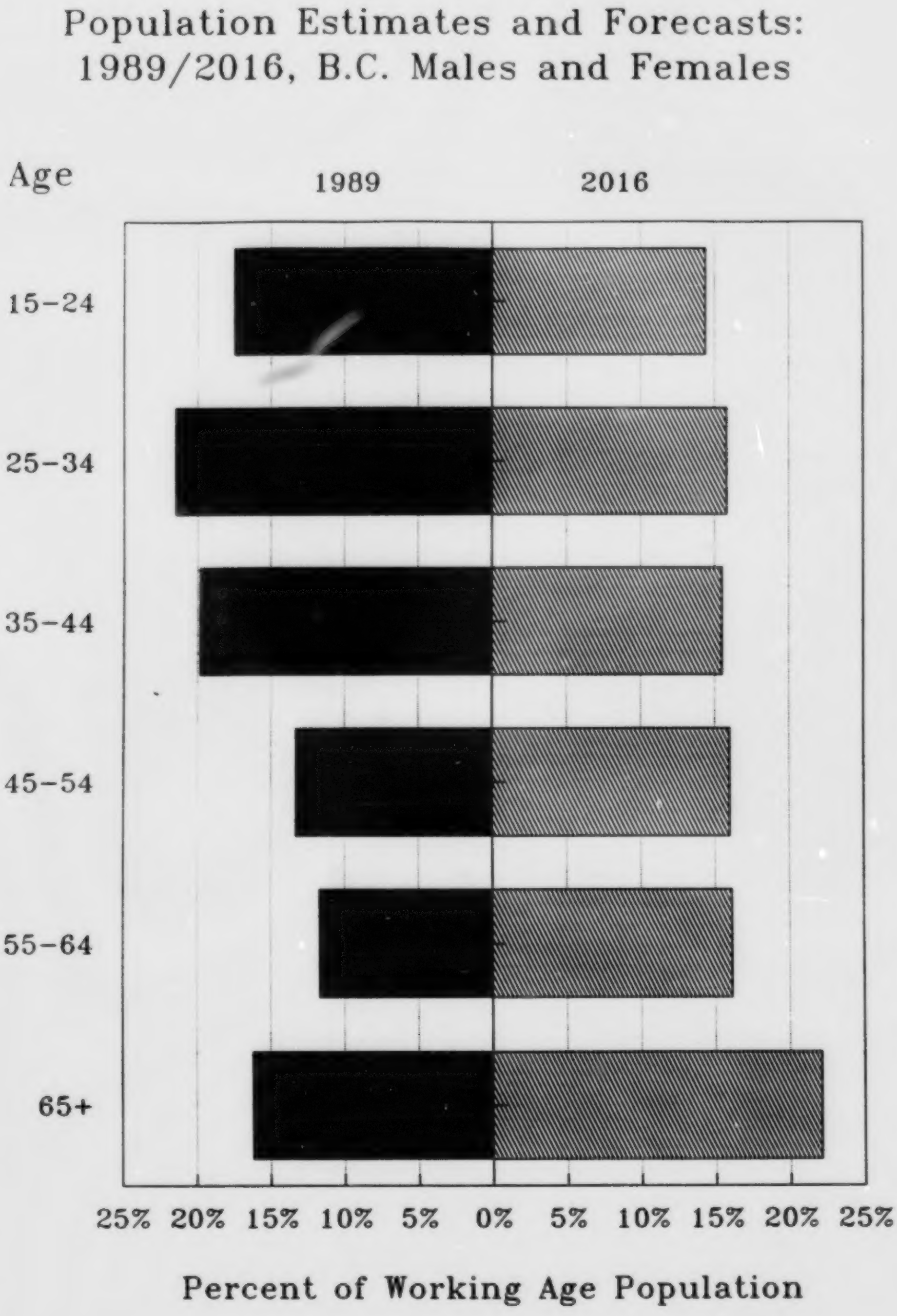

Population Estimates and Forecasts:
1989/2016, B.C. Males and Females
Age
1989
2016
15-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65+
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
5%
10%
15%
20%
25%
Percent of Working Age Population

Table 1.2

Population Forecast: 1975 - 2016
B.C., Both Sexes, Summary Statistics

Year	Total Population	Median Age
1975	2433.2	28.7
1976	2466.6	29.1
1977	2499.4	29.5
1978	2542.3	29.9
1979	2589.4	30.3
1980	2666.0	30.6
1981	2744.2	30.9
1982	2787.7	31.3
1983	2813.8	31.7
1984	2847.7	32.1
1985	2870.1	32.6
1986	2889.0	33.1
1987	2925.0	33.5
1988	2980.2	33.9
1989	3053.3	34.2
1990 *	3130.4	34.5
1991	3203.2	34.8
1992	3267.9	35.1
1993	3328.5	35.4
1994	3390.0	35.7
1995	3451.9	36.0
1996	3514.4	36.4
1997	3576.5	36.7
1998	3637.6	37.0
1999	3696.7	37.3
2000	3755.1	37.6
2001	3814.4	38.0
2002	3875.4	38.3
2003	3937.6	38.5
2004	3999.9	38.8
2005	4061.5	39.0
2006	4122.2	39.2
2007	4182.1	39.4
2008	4241.1	39.6
2009	4299.5	39.8
2010	4357.1	40.0
2011	4413.8	40.3
2012	4469.9	40.5
2013	4525.8	40.7
2014	4581.3	40.8
2015	4636.5	41.0
2016	4691.3	41.2

* Forecast Data

Table 1.3

Population Forecast: 1975 - 76 to 2015 - 16
B.C., Both Sexes

Year	Interprovincial Migration			International Migration			Total Net (000)	Births (000)	Deaths (000)	Natural Increase (000)	Total Change (000)	Population Percent Growth (%)
	In (000)	Out (000)	Net (000)	In (000)	Out (000)	Net (000)						
1975-76	58.3	62.7	-4.4	25.2	9.5	15.7	11.3	36.1	19.0	17.1	28.4	1.4 %
1976-77	58.2	53.2	5.0	17.2	8.2	9.0	14.0	36.1	18.3	17.8	31.8	1.3 %
1977-78	63.4	45.8	17.6	14.6	7.8	6.8	24.4	36.5	18.7	17.8	42.2	1.7 %
1978-79	67.5	45.5	22.0	12.1	7.2	4.9	26.9	37.8	19.0	18.8	45.7	1.9 %
1979-80	80.7	40.5	40.2	21.1	5.5	15.6	55.8	38.6	19.0	19.6	75.4	3.0 %
1980-81	80.5	42.7	37.8	23.4	5.3	18.1	55.9	40.3	19.5	20.8	76.7	2.9 %
1981-82	58.0	49.3	8.7	22.2	6.4	15.8	24.5	42.5	20.1	22.4	46.9	1.6 %
1982-83	44.2	45.7	-1.5	16.0	7.1	8.9	7.4	41.9	20.1	21.8	29.2	0.9 %
1983-84	44.1	37.5	6.6	14.4	7.0	7.4	14.0	43.0	20.1	22.9	36.9	1.2 %
1984-85	40.1	42.1	-2.0	12.3	7.4	4.9	2.9	43.5	20.6	22.9	25.8	0.8 %
1985-86	43.6	48.1	-4.5	12.5	6.9	5.6	1.1	42.3	21.3	21.0	22.1	0.7 %
1986-87	52.5	44.9	7.6	15.2	7.6	7.6	15.2	41.8	21.0	20.8	36.0	1.2 %
1987-88	64.2	42.8	21.4	20.2	5.7	14.5	35.9	41.5	22.3	19.2	55.1	2.0 %
1988-89	69.6	41.8	27.8	24.3	5.0	19.3	47.1	43.4	20.3	23.1	70.2	2.3 %
1989-90	82.9	46.2	36.7	26.3	5.2	21.1	57.8	44.7	21.3	23.4	81.2	2.6 %
1990-91*	88.3	47.8	40.5	29.3	5.2	24.1	64.6	45.2	23.3	21.9	86.5	2.8 %
1991-92**	70.5	45.8	24.7	26.9	6.7	20.2	44.9	44.8	25.0	19.8	64.7	2.0 %
1992-93	66.2	46.4	19.8	28.2	6.8	21.4	41.2	45.0	25.6	19.4	60.6	1.8 %
1993-94	66.0	46.0	20.0	29.6	7.0	22.6	42.6	45.1	26.2	18.9	61.5	1.8 %
1994-95	66.1	45.6	20.5	30.3	7.3	23.0	43.5	45.2	26.8	18.4	61.9	1.8 %
1995-96	66.6	45.5	21.1	30.8	7.5	23.3	44.4	45.4	27.4	18.0	62.4	1.8 %
1996-97	66.5	45.2	21.3	31.0	7.8	23.2	44.5	45.5	27.9	17.6	62.1	1.7 %
1997-98	66.6	45.1	21.5	30.4	8.0	22.4	43.9	45.6	28.5	17.1	61.0	1.7 %
1998-99	67.2	45.6	21.6	29.2	8.2	21.0	42.6	45.6	29.1	16.5	59.1	1.6 %
1999-2000	67.7	45.6	22.1	28.6	8.4	20.2	42.3	45.7	29.7	16.0	58.3	1.6 %
2000-2001	68.2	44.3	23.9	28.6	8.6	20.0	43.9	45.9	30.5	15.4	59.3	1.6 %
2001-2002	68.9	42.8	26.1	28.6	8.7	19.9	46.0	46.3	31.3	15.0	61.0	1.6 %
2002-2003	69.6	41.8	27.8	28.6	8.7	19.9	47.7	46.7	32.2	14.5	62.2	1.6 %
2003-2004	69.9	41.5	28.4	28.6	8.7	19.9	48.3	47.1	33.0	14.1	62.4	1.6 %
2004-2005	69.6	41.6	28.0	28.6	8.7	19.9	47.9	47.5	33.8	13.7	61.6	1.5 %
2005-2006	69.4	41.8	27.6	28.6	8.7	19.9	47.5	47.9	34.6	13.3	60.8	1.5 %
2006-2007	69.3	42.4	26.9	28.6	8.7	19.9	46.8	48.4	35.4	13.0	59.8	1.4 %
2007-2008	69.2	42.9	26.3	28.6	8.7	19.9	46.2	49.0	36.1	12.9	59.1	1.4 %
2008-2009	69.2	43.3	25.9	28.6	8.7	19.9	45.8	49.5	36.9	12.6	58.4	1.4 %
2009-2010	69.0	43.6	25.4	28.6	8.7	19.9	45.3	50.0	37.7	12.3	57.6	1.3 %
2010-2011	68.8	43.9	24.9	28.6	8.7	19.9	44.8	50.4	38.5	11.9	56.7	1.3 %
2011-2012	68.7	44.1	24.6	28.6	8.7	19.9	44.5	50.9	39.3	11.6	56.1	1.3 %
2012-2013	68.6	44.1	24.5	28.6	8.7	19.9	44.4	51.4	40.0	11.4	55.8	1.2 %
2013-2014	68.6	44.1	24.5	28.6	8.7	19.9	44.4	51.9	40.7	11.2	55.6	1.2 %
2014-2015	68.5	44.1	24.4	28.6	8.7	19.9	44.3	52.3	41.4	10.9	55.2	1.2 %
2015-2016	68.4	44.1	24.3	28.6	8.7	19.9	44.2	52.7	42.1	10.6	54.8	1.2 %

* Estimated Data
** Forecast Data

Figure 1.2

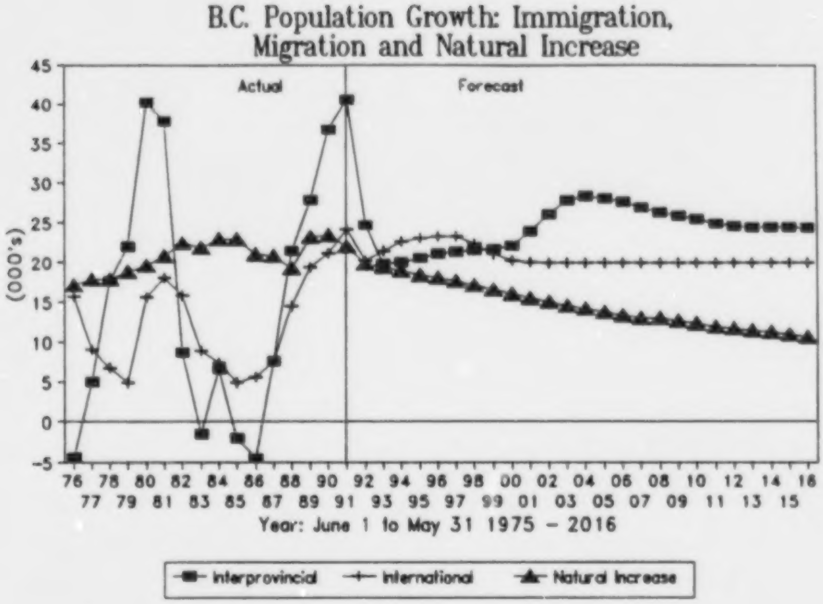

B.C. Population Growth: Immigration, Migration and Natural Increase
Actual
Forecast
(000's)
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
-5
76 78 80 82 84 86 88 90 92 94 96 98 00 02 04 06 08 10 12 14 16
77 79 81 83 85 87 89 91 93 95 97 99 01 03 05 07 09 11 13 15
Year: June 1 to May 31 1975 - 2016
Interprovincial
International
Natural Increase

Table 1.4

Net Migration: 1971 - 1990 Average
B.C. Males

Age	Males (000)	Percent of Total Male Migration
0-14	1883	22.54%
15-24	1082	12.95%
25-44	2503	29.97%
45-64	2067	24.75%
65+	818	9.79%
Total	8353	100.00%

Net Migration: 1989 - 1990 Average
B.C. Males

Age	Males (000)	Percent of Total Male Migration
0-14	4027	21.99%
15-24	2646	14.45%
25-44	6822	37.26%
45-64	3363	18.37%
65+	1451	7.93%
Total	18309	100.00%

Net Migration: 1971 - 1990 Average
B.C. Females

Age	Females (000)	Percent of Total Female Migration
0-14	1819	21.99%
15-24	1216	14.70%
25-44	2356	28.48%
45-64	2105	25.44%
65+	777	9.39%
Total	8273	100.00%

Net Migration
B.C. Females: 1989 - 1990 Average

Age	Females (000)	Percent of Total Female Migration
0-14	3944	21.45%
15-24	2730	14.85%
25-44	6712	36.51%
45-64	3338	18.16%
65+	1660	9.03%
Total	18384	100.00%

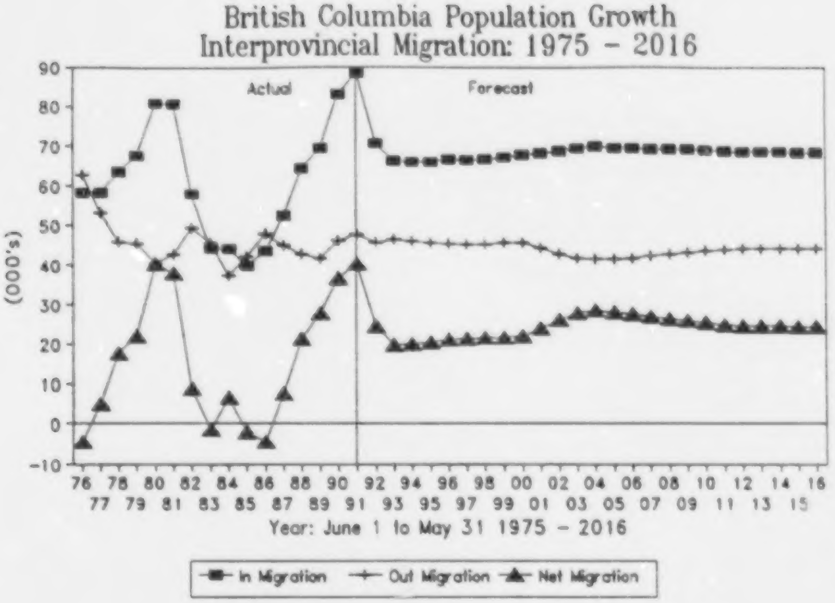
Net Migration: 1971 - 1990 Average
B.C., Both Sexes

Age	Total (000)	Percentage of Total Migration
0-14	3702	22.27%
15-24	2298	13.82%
25-44	4859	29.23%
45-64	4172	25.09%
65+	1595	9.59%
Total	16626	100.00%

Net Migration: 1989 - 1990 Average
B.C., Both Sexes

Age	Total (000)	Percentage of Total Migration
0-14	7971	21.72%
15-24	5376	14.65%
25-44	13534	36.88%
45-64	6701	18.26%
65+	3111	8.48%
Total	36693	100.00%

Figure 1.3



British Columbia Population Growth
Interprovincial Migration: 1975 - 2016

Figure 1.4.1

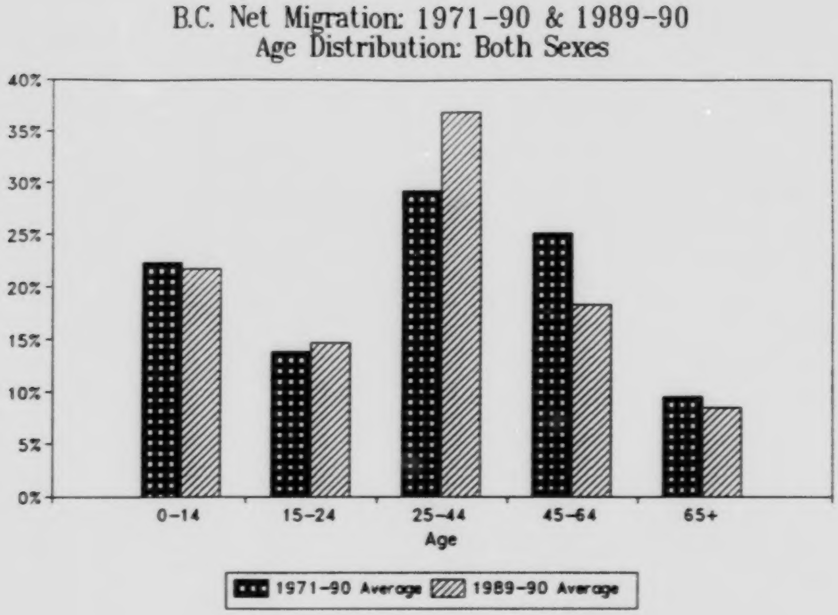

B.C. Net Migration: 1971-90 & 1989-90
Age Distribution: Both Sexes
40%
35%
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
0-14
15-24
25-44
45-64
65+
Age
1971-90 Average
1989-90 Average

Figure 1.4.2

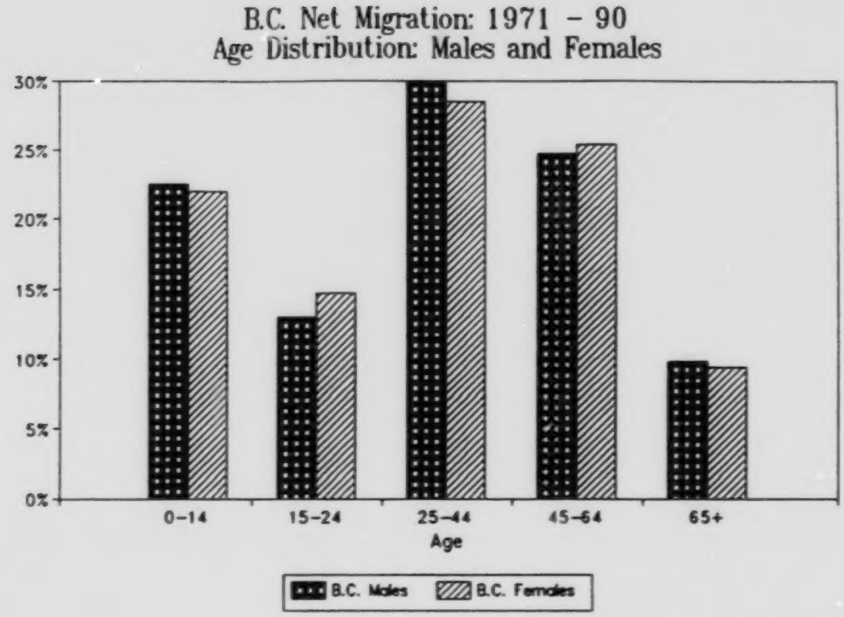

B.C. Net Migration: 1971 - 90
Age Distribution: Males and Females
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
0-14
15-24
25-44
45-64
65+
Age
B.C. Males
B.C. Females

Figure 1.4.3

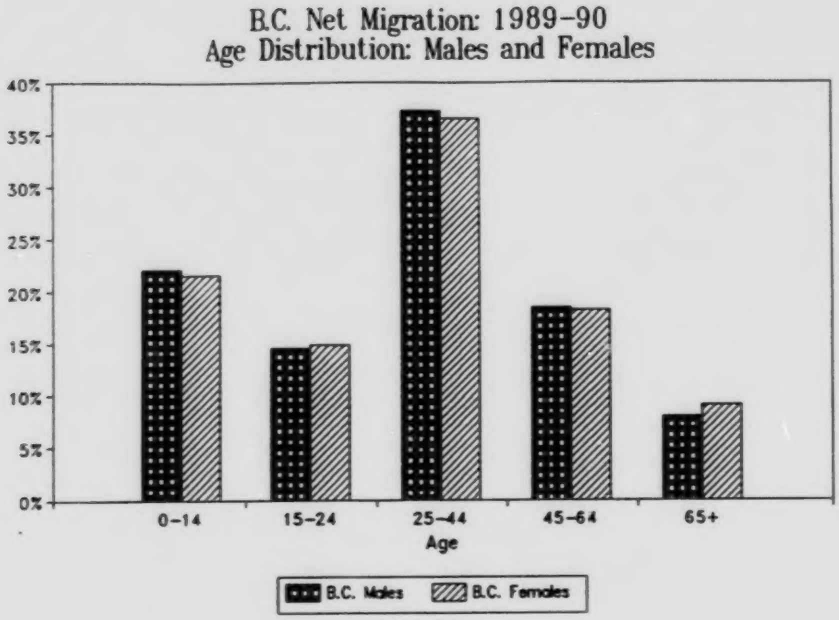

B.C. Net Migration: 1989-90
Age Distribution: Males and Females
40%
35%
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
0-14
15-24
25-44
45-64
65+
Age
B.C. Males
B.C. Females

Figure 1.5

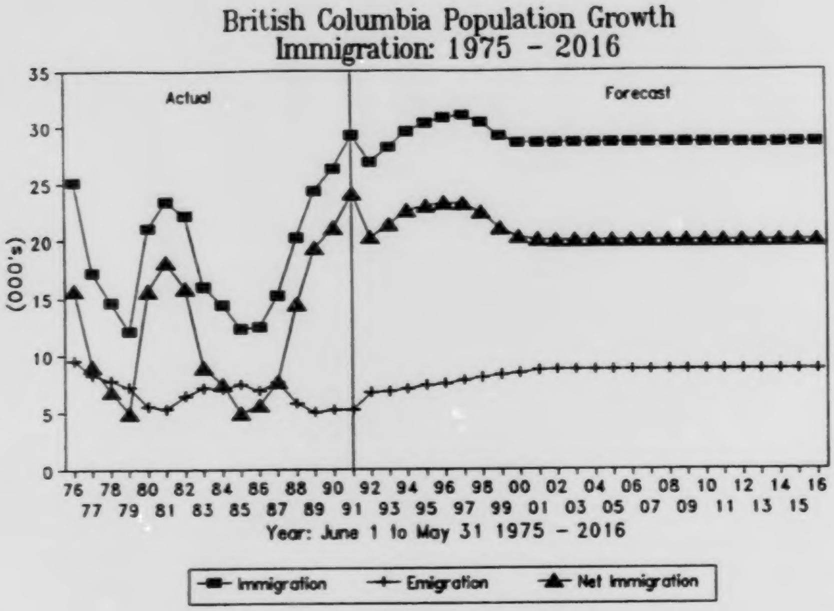

British Columbia Population Growth
Immigration: 1975 - 2016
Actual
Forecast
(000's)
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
76 78 80 82 84 86 88 90 92 94 96 98 00 02 04 06 08 10 12 14 16
77 79 81 83 85 87 89 91 93 95 97 99 01 03 05 07 09 11 13 15
Year: June 1 to May 31 1975 - 2016
Immigration
Emigration
Net Immigration

Table 1.5

Immigration by Selected Source: 1968 - 1990
B.C., Both Sexes

Year	Europe (000)	% of Total	Asia (000)	% of Total	U.S.A. (000)	% of Total	Others (000)	% of Total	Total (000)
1968	9992	44.3%	4870	21.6%	4815	21.3%	2889	12.8%	22566
1969	8073	36.5%	5218	23.6%	5685	25.7%	3148	14.2%	22124
1970	7574	35.0%	4829	22.3%	6054	28.0%	3202	14.8%	21659
1971	4961	26.2%	4894	25.9%	6431	34.0%	2630	13.9%	18916
1972	5358	26.6%	5506	27.4%	5297	26.3%	3946	19.6%	20107
1973	8215	29.4%	9554	34.2%	5396	19.3%	4784	17.1%	27949
1974	11146	32.3%	11657	33.8%	6282	18.2%	5396	15.6%	34481
1975	8985	30.7%	10669	36.4%	3965	13.5%	5653	19.3%	29272
1976	5341	26.1%	8785	42.9%	2782	13.6%	3576	17.5%	20484
1977	4360	28.3%	6477	42.1%	2045	13.3%	2513	16.3%	15395
1978	3424	27.8%	5248	42.6%	1771	14.4%	1888	15.3%	12331
1979	3965	23.9%	8773	52.9%	1851	11.2%	1997	12.0%	16586
1980	5624	23.0%	14353	58.7%	2102	8.6%	2358	9.6%	24437
1981	6120	27.8%	11455	52.1%	2119	9.6%	2313	10.5%	22007
1982	6006	31.6%	9117	48.0%	1763	9.3%	2110	11.1%	18996
1983	3340	23.1%	8236	57.0%	1271	8.8%	1600	11.1%	14447
1984	2637	20.0%	7847	59.5%	1081	8.2%	1625	12.3%	13190
1985	2226	18.2%	7150	58.4%	1231	10.1%	1632	13.3%	12239
1986	2204	17.6%	7182	57.2%	1243	9.9%	1918	15.3%	12547
1987	3385	17.9%	11461	60.6%	1524	8.1%	2543	13.4%	18913
1988	3940	17.0%	15260	65.8%	1280	5.5%	2724	11.7%	23204
1989	4099	16.2%	16798	66.3%	1309	5.2%	3129	12.4%	25335
1990	4179	14.7%	19802	69.5%	1247	4.4%	3280	11.5%	28508

Figure 1.6

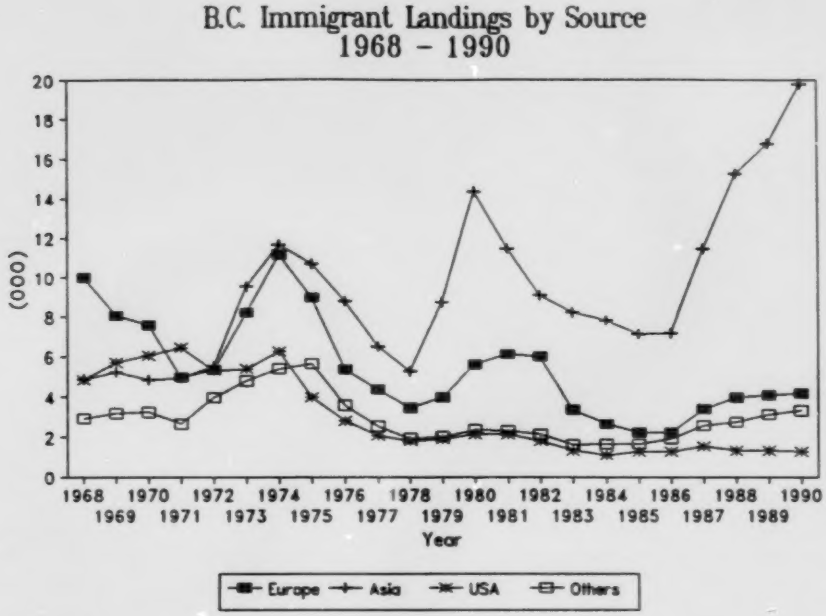

B.C. Immigrant Landings by Source
1968 - 1990
(000)
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
20
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
Year
Europe
Asia
USA
Others

Figure 1.7

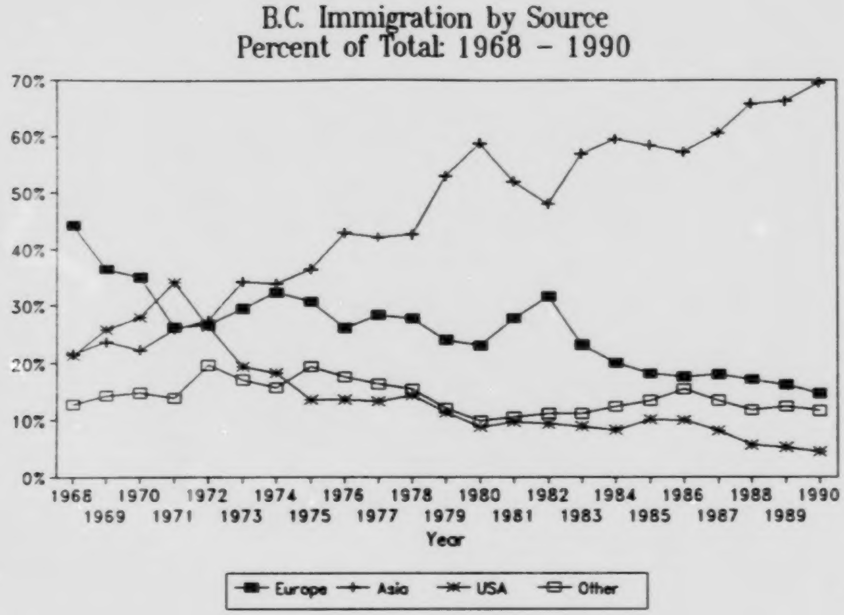

B.C. Immigration by Source
Percent of Total: 1968 - 1990
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
Year
Europe
Asia
USA
Other

Table 1.6

Components of Population Change: 1975 - 2016
B.C., Both Sexes

Years	Inter-Provincial Migration	Inter-National Migration	Natural Increase	Total Change
1975 - 1981				
Total (000)	118.3	70.1	111.9	300.3
Percent of Total Change in the Period	39.4%	23.3%	37.3%	100.0%
1981 - 1989				
Total (000)	71.1	82.4	172.0	325.5
Percent of Total Change in the Period	21.8%	25.3%	52.8%	100.0%
1989 - 2016 (Forecast)				
Total (000)	667.8	555.0	405.2	1628.0
Percent of Total Change in the Period	41.0%	34.1%	24.9%	100.0%

2. LABOUR FORCE

The Labour Force in British Columbia, Ontario and the Rest of Canada

In 1975 there were 1,087,000 members of the labour force in British Columbia. By 1990 this number had grown to over 1,601,000, or by 47.3%. The annual rate of growth in the size of the labour force from 1975 to 1990 averaged 2.6%.

Labour force growth in the period 1975 to 1990 is explained by three factors:

1. increases in the number of people in the working age population;
2. increases in the relative size of the "prime working age group" (25 to 54), the group in which it is most likely that people will choose to participate in the labour force;
3. increases in labour force participation rates, or probabilities that people in the working age population would choose to be in the labour force.

Table 2.1 shows that in 1975 regional shares of the Canadian labour force were British Columbia, 10.9%, the Prairies, 16.4%, Ontario, 38.3%, Quebec, 26.5%, and the Maritimes, 7.9%. By 1990, British Columbia's share of the Canadian labour force had increased to 11.7%, the Prairies increased to 17.2% and Ontario, to 38.5%. The Maritimes' share of the Canadian labour force remained constant while Quebec's share declined, from 26.5% to 24.8%.

In British Columbia, the number of males in the labour force increased from 680,000 in 1975 to 881,000 in 1990. The number of women in the labour force increased more rapidly, from 407,000 in 1975 to 720,000 in 1990. (See **Figure 2.1.**) Relatively rapid growth in the number of women in the labour force occurred in all regions of Canada.

Figure 2.1 shows that the labour force in British Columbia increased in size continuously throughout the period from 1975 to 1990. However, as **Figure 2.2** shows, the rate of labour force growth varied from a high of 4.6% from 1980 to 1981, to a low of 0.4% from 1981 to 1982.

Figure 2.2 compares labour force growth to employment growth. Low rates of labour force growth occurred in years of falling levels of employment. In years when the economy and the employment base were expanding, labour force growth rates in British Columbia were typically in the range of 2% to 4% per annum.

Labour Force by Educational Attainment

Table 2.2 shows the labour force in British Columbia divided into five educational attainment groups including:

1. those with eight or fewer years of schooling;
2. those with some high school or with completed high school diplomas;
3. those with some (incomplete) post-secondary education;
4. those with post-secondary education, other than university degrees;
5. those with university degrees.

Changes in the size of the labour force by age and educational attainment are highlighted in **Figure 2.3**.

The number of people in the labour force with eight or fewer years of education declined substantially from 1981 to 1989, particularly among those under age 45. The number with some or completed high school has remained fairly constant, although further disaggregation of the statistics would show that more people are now finishing high school than was the case in the past. The number of labour force participants with university degrees and other types of post-secondary education increased quite substantially from 1981 to 1989, particularly among those below age 45.

Labour Force Participation in British Columbia, Ontario and the Rest of Canada

Figure 2.4 shows that the probability of labour force participation increased in British Columbia between the years 1975 and 1990, from 61.1% to 66.0%. Participation rates have somewhat been lower in British Columbia than they have been in Ontario, with the difference remaining fairly consistently in the range of 3 percentage points. Participation rates in British Columbia have tended to exceed those in the rest of Canada (excluding both British Columbia and Ontario), although in recent years the gap has narrowed.

Overall participation rates reflect not only people's propensity to join the paid labour market - they also are affected by the age distribution of the population. Participation rates tend to be relatively low among young people (under age 24) and older people (over age 54). In areas such as British Columbia, in which the population is relatively heavily concentrated in younger and older age groups, overall participation rates tend to be lower than they are in areas in which the population is heavily concentrated in the prime working age groups (25 to 54).

Changes in Labour Force Participation of Men and Women

Figure 2.5 shows that participation rates among both men and women increased in British Columbia from 1975 to 1981. Rates for females also increased in Ontario and in the rest of Canada in that period while rates for males remained fairly constant in Ontario and in the rest of Canada. From 1981 to 1990 participation rates among males declined, and more so in British Columbia than in either Ontario or the rest of Canada. In all regions, participation rates among females continued to increase in the years 1981 to 1990.

As **Figure 2.6** shows, participation rates of British Columbia males aged 15 to 64 declined from 77.2% in 1975 to 74.3% in 1990, while among women, the rate increased from 45.2% to 58.1%. **Figure 2.6.1** shows that declining participation rates among males in British Columbia occurred predominantly in the early 1980's. Rates among males increased in 1988 and 1990. It is likely that declining rates among males are, to some degree, associated with economic conditions. Among females the amounts by which participation rates increase have been affected by the state of the economy.

Figures 2.7.1 shows that in 1976 participation rates of women were over 40 percentage points lower than were males' rates in the 25 to 64 year age range. **Figures 2.7.2** and **2.7.3** show that by 1981 the differences had fallen to about 30 percentage points and by 1990, they had fallen to less than 20 points. The overall pattern of change in women's participation rates is shown in **Figure 2.8**.

In the year 1990 labour force participation rates of women under age 24 were virtually identical to those of men in the same age group. In the age groups normally associated with family formation women's participation rates continued to be lower than were those of men. In the oldest age group (55 to 64) a very large difference between male and female participation rates persisted in 1990.

As **Figure 2.9** shows, the presence of young children in a household has more affect on the labour force participation of women than has marriage. Since 1983, there has been very little difference between the participation rates of women with pre-school age children and husbands present in their households and the participation rates of women with pre-school age children and without husbands present. The same is true for women with older children. Much of the increase in labour force participation rates since 1981 has been among women with husbands present in their households.

Changes in Participation Rates by Educational Attainment

Table 2.3 shows participation rates of men and women in British Columbia, in five educational attainment groupings including:

1. those with eight or fewer years of schooling;
2. those with some high school or with completed high school diplomas;
3. those with some (incomplete) post-secondary education;
4. those with post-secondary education, other than university degrees;
5. those with university degrees.

In **Table 2.3** and in **Figure 2.10** participation rates for each of the five educational attainment groups have been expressed as indices, based on the value observed for each group in 1981. In this way, changes in labour force participation among educational attainment groups may be compared over many years. The choice of 1981 as a base year for the index is useful because job opportunities were plentiful in that year, minimizing the effects which discouraged workers on the participation rate values. Discouraged workers are people who leave the labour force because they believe no suitable jobs are available to them. They have also been described as the "hidden unemployed".

The largest change in the probability of labour force participation has occurred among people with eight or fewer years of completed schooling. This change has been quite continuous over the period 1975 to 1990. The indexed participation rate value fell from 1.06 in 1975 to .92 in 1989. (Note that definitional changes to the Labour Force Survey make comparisons to 1990 difficult.) Causes of declining labour force participation among those with less than grade 8 include aging and declining job opportunities for people with limited educations.

Among those with some or completed high school the index increased from .94 in 1975 to 1.00 in 1989. The pattern of increase, decline and increase in the index for this group is quite similar to the pattern of economic expansion, recession and recovery in the period under consideration.

In all of the groups with some or completed post-secondary educations, participation rate indices have tended to increase from 1975 to 1989.

Reasons for Changing Participation Rates

Changes in labour force participation rates may reflect long-term behavioural trends, or economic trends. Two examples of such trends are increasing levels of attachment to the work force among women, and declining levels of attachment to the work force among male workers over age 54. Changes in participation rates may also occur in response to short-term variations in the state of the economy.

As **Figure 2.11.1** shows, participation rates fell in the 1981 to 1984 period, apparently in response to the decline in the number of jobs in that period. This decline may be largely attributed to the discouraged worker effect in the recession of 1981 to 1984. Withdrawal from the work force is likely to occur in periods of economic decline, when jobless labour force participants come to believe that there are no jobs to be found, and so stop looking for work.

As **Figures 2.11.2** and **2.11.3** show, in the recession of 1981 to 1984, participation rates among males in British Columbia fell. Participation rates of women continued to increase, although at a much more moderate pace than when the economy was expanding. After the start of the recovery in 1985, males' participation rates continued to decline while growth of women's participation rates resumed.

Much of the decline in male participation rates occurred in the 55 to 64 year age group. As **Figure 2.12** shows, in 1975 over 75% of all British Columbia males aged 55 to 64 were labour force participants. By 1990, the labour force participation rates among 55 to 64 year old males had fallen to under 60%. Much of the change occurred in the years 1981 to 1986. In this period the difference between participation rates and the proportion of males aged 55 to 64 who were employed increased from 3 to 4 percentage points, to 6 to 8 percentage points. This implies that declining participation rates among males aged 55 to 64 resulted from declining job opportunities for males in that age range.

Table 2.1

Total Labour Force by Region: 1975 - 1990

Year		British Columbia	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Maritimes	Canada
1975	Labour Force	1087	1635	3818	2647	787	9974
	Share of Canada (%)	10.9%	16.4%	38.3%	26.5%	7.9%	
1976	Labour Force	1116	1714	3882	2689	802	10203
	Share of Canada (%)	10.9%	16.8%	38.0%	26.4%	7.9%	
1977	Labour Force	1148	1785	3986	2760	821	10500
	Share of Canada (%)	10.9%	17.0%	38.0%	26.3%	7.8%	
1978	Labour Force	1202	1871	4133	2839	849	10894
	Share of Canada (%)	11.0%	17.2%	37.9%	26.1%	7.8%	
1979	Labour Force	1239	1953	4271	2898	870	11231
	Share of Canada (%)	11.0%	17.4%	38.0%	25.8%	7.7%	
1980	Labour Force	1301	2040	4350	2988	894	11573
	Share of Canada (%)	11.2%	17.6%	37.6%	25.8%	7.7%	
1981	Labour Force	1361	2134	4463	3040	904	11902
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	17.9%	37.5%	25.5%	7.6%	
1982	Labour Force	1368	2171	4502	2984	901	11926
	Share of Canada (%)	11.5%	18.2%	37.7%	25.0%	7.6%	
1983	Labour Force	1380	2210	4561	3038	922	12111
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	18.2%	37.7%	25.1%	7.6%	
1984	Labour Force	1396	2229	4655	3087	948	12315
	Share of Canada (%)	11.3%	18.1%	37.8%	25.1%	7.7%	
1985	Labour Force	1420	2252	4758	3140	963	12533
	Share of Canada (%)	11.3%	18.0%	38.0%	25.1%	7.7%	
1986	Labour Force	1451	2282	4861	3174	978	12746
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	17.9%	38.1%	24.9%	7.7%	
1987	Labour Force	1482	2290	4993	3253	995	13013
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	17.6%	38.4%	25.0%	7.6%	
1988	Labour Force	1515	2313	5118	3312	1018	13276
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	17.4%	38.6%	24.9%	7.7%	
1989	Labour Force	1578	2328	5213	3343	1042	13504
	Share of Canada (%)	11.7%	17.2%	38.6%	24.8%	7.7%	
1990	Labour Force	1601	2351	5267	3399	1061	13679
	Share of Canada (%)	11.7%	17.2%	38.5%	24.8%	7.8%	

Table 2.1.1

Labour Force by Region: 1975 - 1990
Males

Year		British Columbia	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Maritimes	Canada
1975	Labour Force	680	1043	2342	1719	511	6294
	Share of Canada (%)	10.8%	16.6%	37.2%	27.3%	8.1%	
1976	Labour Force	694	1076	2360	1720	518	6368
	Share of Canada (%)	10.9%	16.9%	37.1%	27.0%	8.1%	
1977	Labour Force	713	1114	2406	1749	523	6505
	Share of Canada (%)	11.0%	17.1%	37.0%	26.9%	8.0%	
1978	Labour Force	731	1156	2469	1768	532	6656
	Share of Canada (%)	11.0%	17.4%	37.1%	26.6%	8.0%	
1979	Labour Force	751	1198	2519	1797	545	6810
	Share of Canada (%)	11.0%	17.6%	37.0%	26.4%	8.0%	
1980	Labour Force	785	1236	2534	1831	549	6935
	Share of Canada (%)	11.3%	17.8%	36.5%	26.4%	7.9%	
1981	Labour Force	806	1279	2581	1837	547	7050
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	18.1%	36.6%	26.1%	7.8%	
1982	Labour Force	801	1288	2579	1800	541	7009
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	18.4%	36.8%	25.7%	7.7%	
1983	Labour Force	806	1294	2591	1813	549	7053
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	18.3%	36.7%	25.7%	7.8%	
1984	Labour Force	807	1292	2624	1819	557	7099
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	18.2%	37.0%	25.6%	7.8%	
1985	Labour Force	814	1292	2668	1833	561	7168
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	18.0%	37.2%	25.6%	7.8%	
1986	Labour Force	829	1295	2719	1838	563	7244
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	17.9%	37.5%	25.4%	7.8%	
1987	Labour Force	841	1288	2772	1865	567	7333
	Share of Canada (%)	11.5%	17.6%	37.8%	25.4%	7.7%	
1988	Labour Force	849	1291	2815	1892	576	7423
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	17.4%	37.9%	25.5%	7.8%	
1989	Labour Force	877	1295	2866	1905	582	7525
	Share of Canada (%)	11.7%	17.2%	38.1%	25.3%	7.7%	
1990	Labour Force	881	1304	2874	1913	588	7560
	Share of Canada (%)	11.7%	17.2%	38.0%	25.3%	7.8%	

Table 2.1.2

Labour Force by Region: 1975 - 1990
Females

Year		British Columbia	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Maritimes	Canada
1975	Labour Force	407	592	1476	928	276	3680
	Share of Canada (%)	11.1%	16.1%	40.1%	25.2%	7.5%	
1976	Labour Force	422	638	1522	969	284	3835
	Share of Canada (%)	11.0%	16.6%	39.7%	25.3%	7.4%	
1977	Labour Force	435	671	1580	1011	298	3995
	Share of Canada (%)	10.9%	16.8%	39.5%	25.3%	7.5%	
1978	Labour Force	471	715	1664	1071	317	4238
	Share of Canada (%)	11.1%	16.9%	39.3%	25.3%	7.5%	
1979	Labour Force	488	755	1752	1101	325	4421
	Share of Canada (%)	11.0%	17.1%	39.6%	24.9%	7.4%	
1980	Labour Force	516	804	1816	1157	345	4638
	Share of Canada (%)	11.1%	17.3%	39.2%	24.9%	7.4%	
1981	Labour Force	555	855	1882	1203	357	4852
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	17.6%	38.8%	24.8%	7.4%	
1982	Labour Force	567	883	1923	1184	360	4917
	Share of Canada (%)	11.5%	18.0%	39.1%	24.1%	7.3%	
1983	Labour Force	574	916	1970	1225	373	5058
	Share of Canada (%)	11.3%	18.1%	38.9%	24.2%	7.4%	
1984	Labour Force	589	937	2031	1268	391	5216
	Share of Canada (%)	11.3%	18.0%	38.9%	24.3%	7.5%	
1985	Labour Force	606	960	2090	1307	402	5365
	Share of Canada (%)	11.3%	17.9%	39.0%	24.4%	7.5%	
1986	Labour Force	622	987	2142	1336	415	5502
	Share of Canada (%)	11.3%	17.9%	38.9%	24.3%	7.5%	
1987	Labour Force	641	1002	2221	1388	428	5680
	Share of Canada (%)	11.3%	17.6%	39.1%	24.4%	7.5%	
1988	Labour Force	666	1022	2303	1420	442	5853
	Share of Canada (%)	11.4%	17.5%	39.3%	24.3%	7.6%	
1989	Labour Force	701	1033	2347	1438	460	5979
	Share of Canada (%)	11.7%	17.3%	39.3%	24.1%	7.7%	
1990	Labour Force	720	1047	2393	1486	473	6119
	Share of Canada (%)	11.8%	17.1%	39.1%	24.3%	7.7%	

Figure 2.1

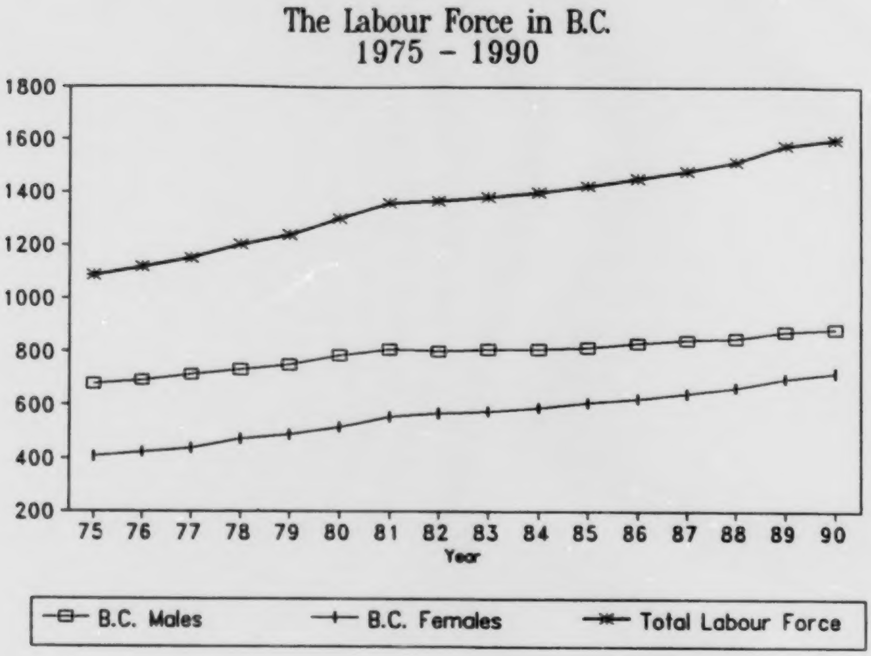
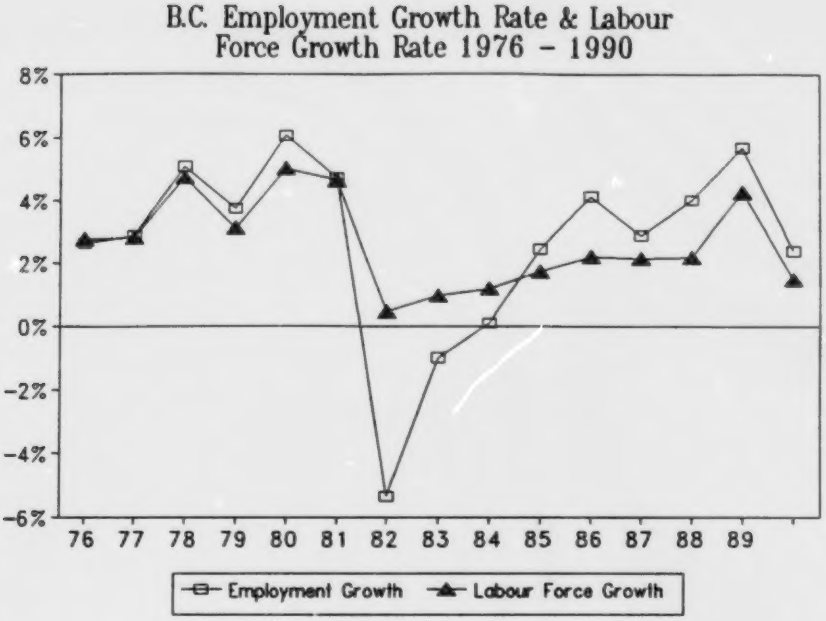

The Labour Force in B.C.
1975 - 1990
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
Year
B.C. Males
B.C. Females
Total Labour Force

Figure 2.2



Employment Growth and Labour Force Growth: 1976 - 1990
British Columbia

Year	Employment (000)	Growth Rate	Labour Force (000)	Growth Rate
1976	1021	2.61%	1117	2.76%
1977	1050	2.84%	1148	2.78%
1978	1103	5.05%	1202	4.70%
1979	1144	3.72%	1239	3.08%
1980	1213	6.03%	1301	5.00%
1981	1270	4.70%	1361	4.61%
1982	1202	-5.35%	1367	0.44%
1983	1190	-1.00%	1380	0.95%
1984	1191	0.08%	1396	1.16%
1985	1220	2.43%	1420	1.72%
1986	1270	4.10%	1451	2.18%
1987	1306	2.83%	1482	2.14%
1988	1358	3.98%	1514	2.16%
1989	1435	5.67%	1578	4.23%
1990	1469	2.37%	1601	1.46%

Table 2.2

Labour Force by Age Group and Educational Attainment: 1981 - 1990 *
B.C., Both Sexes

	1981 (000)	1982 (000)	1983 (000)	1984 (000)	1985 (000)	1986 (000)	1987 (000)	1988 (000)	1989 (000)	1990 * (000)
20 - 24 Years of Age	195	191.2	191.1	191.3	186.3	179.6	178.1	172.5	176.8	176.5
0 - 8 Years Schooling	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.3	3.8	3.9	4.1	....	3.4	....
High School	125.1	120	120.1	121.9	113.5	100.6	99.2	95.1	99.4	86
Some Post-Secondary	38	38.3	41.2	36.9	40.4	45.3	42	43.4	37.2	44
Post Secondary Certificate	17.9	18.2	16.4	19.6	18.8	18.4	21	22.2	26.3	36.7
University Degree	8.9	9.8	8.9	8.6	9.7	11.4	11.9	9	10.5	7.3
25 - 34 Years of Age	383.3	390.5	394.8	399.9	404.2	412.6	419.2	420.5	436.8	439.7
0 - 8 Years Schooling	13.3	11.8	11.2	10	10.2	11	10.4	10.5	10.8	9.4
High School	197.8	200	202	208.3	213.5	211.9	214.4	209.9	225	185.6
Some Post-Secondary	53.8	54.8	57.5	59.4	61.6	60.6	56.3	57.8	56.6	54.6
Post Secondary Certificate	53.2	58	56.5	59.1	53.5	60.8	74.1	74	75.4	127.6
University Degree	65.2	66	67.7	63.1	65.4	68.3	64.1	68.3	68.9	62.5
35 - 44 Years of Age	274.6	294.4	308.2	326.8	343.4	355.8	373.3	394.6	410.1	432
0 - 8 Years Schooling	22.6	21.2	21.4	18.6	16.4	16.6	18.3	17.7	17.1	12.7
High School	146.9	147.2	151	159.9	165.5	168.1	173.8	181.6	194	162.1
Some Post-Secondary	28.2	33.7	37.4	41.6	41	48.5	43.3	54.2	55.1	47.2
Post Secondary Certificate	33.9	41.5	42.2	45.4	50.8	51.3	60.6	62.8	65.4	129
University Degree	43	50.8	56.2	61.2	69.6	71.3	77.3	78.3	78.6	81.1
45 + Years of Age	362	360.8	367.4	368.3	375.1	382.7	389.7	402.7	422.9	430.7
0 - 8 Years Schooling	63.4	59.8	63.8	59.6	58.8	55.1	54.8	52.1	53.4	45.3
High School	193.3	191.4	189.1	192.5	193.6	193.7	197.2	197.4	212.5	166.6
Some Post-Secondary	29.6	30.6	32.5	31.7	33.3	33.1	33	35.1	36.9	32.1
Post Secondary Certificate	33.9	38.6	38.8	40	38.8	46.1	50.9	59.8	58.4	122.5
University Degree	41.9	40.4	43.3	44.6	50.6	54.8	53.8	58.2	61.7	64.1
Labour Force 20+	1215	1236.9	1261.5	1286.3	1309	1330.7	1360.3	1390.3	1446.6	1478.9
0 - 8 Years Schooling	104.4	97.6	100.9	92.5	89.2	86.6	87.6	80.3	84.7	67.4
High School	663.1	658.6	662.2	682.6	686.1	674.3	684.6	684	730.9	600.3
Some Post-Secondary	149.6	157.4	168.6	169.6	176.3	187.5	174.6	190.5	185.8	177.9
Post Secondary Certificate	138.9	156.3	153.9	164.1	161.9	176.6	206.6	218.8	225.5	415.8
University Degree	159	167	176.1	177.5	195.3	205.8	207.1	213.8	219.7	215

* Note: After 1989, Statistics Canada revised the educational attainment questions in the Labour Force Survey. For this reason, values reported for the year 1990 cannot be compared to earlier years.

Table 2.2.1

Labour Force by Age Group and Educational Attainment: 1981 - 1990 *
B.C. Males

	1981 (000)	1982 (000)	1983 (000)	1984 (000)	1985 (000)	1986 (000)	1987 (000)	1988 (000)	1989 (000)	1990 * (000)
20 - 24 Years of Age	105.7	102.9	103.2	101.5	97.6	94.5	94.9	91.7	91.4	89.5
0 - 8 Years Schooling	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.1	....	....	3	....	....	....
High School	72.4	67.7	68.7	67.4	62.3	55.5	55.3	53	55.2	46.5
Some Post-Secondary	18.8	18.9	20.4	17.9	20	23.5	21.2	21.5	16.2	23.5
Post Secondary Certificate	7.1	8.2	6.7	9.1	8.6	8.3	10.4	11	13.5	14.3
University Degree	4	4.8	4.3	4	4.3	4.4	5.1	4.2	4.2	4
25 - 34 Years of Age	226.9	227.1	226	227.4	228.1	229	232.4	231.5	238.2	239.4
0 - 8 Years Schooling	8.4	7.4	7.3	6.2	6.8	7	6.2	6.6	7.3	5.5
High School	117.4	115.6	116.4	123.8	121.9	117.6	118.8	115.8	124.6	101.7
Some Post-Secondary	32.3	32.5	33.9	32.9	34.1	34.7	32	31.3	29.6	28.6
Post Secondary Certificate	29.2	32.4	30.2	29.7	29	32	38.3	42	38	70.8
University Degree	39.6	39.3	38.2	34.8	36.4	37.7	37.2	35.7	38.6	32.8
35 - 44 Years of Age	165.1	174.1	182.3	188.9	196.6	203	210.2	218.3	224.5	236.3
0 - 8 Years Schooling	15.6	15	15.8	11.8	11.2	11.2	10.4	9.9	9.3	7.9
High School	84.7	81.3	85.1	89	91.8	93.1	93.2	99	103.6	84.6
Some Post-Secondary	16.5	20.6	22.1	23.8	23	27.7	25	32.3	31.4	23
Post Secondary Certificate	17.8	21.7	21.6	23.9	26.7	26.3	32.8	30.2	35.1	72.3
University Degree	30.5	35.5	37.7	40.4	44	44.6	48.8	46.9	45	48.5
45 + Years of Age	232.4	228.9	233.7	232.2	235.9	240.1	241.2	245.3	255.1	255.2
0 - 8 Years Schooling	46.9	43.6	47.1	43.6	43.5	40.1	39.8	38.3	38.5	29.8
High School	116.4	114.7	114	116.4	115.8	117.6	114.5	116.7	122	93.2
Some Post-Secondary	19.3	18.9	20.6	20	19.9	19.7	20.8	20.5	21.9	17.8
Post Secondary Certificate	18.7	22.3	21.4	20.8	20.5	24.4	27.2	30	30.4	71.4
University Degree	31	29.3	30.6	31.4	36.4	38.3	38.8	39.9	42.3	43
Males 20+	730.1	733	745.2	750	758.2	766.6	778.7	786.8	809.2	820.4
0 - 8 Years Schooling	74.3	69.4	73.3	64.7	61.5	58.3	59.4	54.8	55.1	43.2
High School	390.9	379.3	384.2	396.6	391.8	383.8	381.8	384.5	405.4	326
Some Post-Secondary	86.9	90.9	97	94.6	97	105.6	99	105.6	99.1	92.9
Post Secondary Certificate	72.8	84.6	79.9	83.5	84.8	91	108.7	113.2	117	228.8
University Degree	105.1	108.9	110.8	110.6	121.1	125	129.9	126.7	130.1	128.3

* Note: After 1989, Statistics Canada revised the educational attainment questions in the Labour Force Survey. For this reason, values reported for the year 1990 cannot be compared to earlier years.

Table 2.2.2

Labour Force by Age Group and Educational Attainment: 1981 - 1990 *
B.C. Females

	1981 (000)	1982 (000)	1983 (000)	1984 (000)	1985 (000)	1986 (000)	1987 (000)	1988 (000)	1989 (000)	1990 * (000)
20 - 24 Years of Age	89.3	88.3	87.9	89.8	88.7	85.1	83.3	80.8	85.4	87
0 - 8 Years Schooling	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
High School	52.7	52.4	51.4	54.5	51.3	45	44	42	44.1	39.5
Some Post-Secondary	19.2	19.5	20.8	19	20.4	21.8	20.8	21.9	21	20.5
Post Secondary Certificate	10.8	10	9.6	10.4	10.2	10.1	10.6	11.2	12.8	22.5
University Degree	4.9	5	4.5	4.6	5.4	7	6.8	4.8	6.3	3.4
25 - 34 Years of Age	156.4	163.4	168.8	172.5	176.1	183.7	186.8	189	198.6	200.3
0 - 8 Years Schooling	4.9	4.4	3.9	3.8	3.5	4	4.2	3.9	3.5	3.9
High School	80.3	84.4	85.6	84.5	91.6	94.3	95.6	94.1	100.4	83.8
Some Post-Secondary	21.6	22.3	23.6	26.5	27.5	25.9	24.3	26.5	27.1	26.1
Post Secondary Certificate	23.9	25.5	26.3	29.4	24.5	28.8	35.8	31.9	37.3	56.9
University Degree	25.6	26.7	29.5	28.4	29	30.7	26.9	32.6	30.3	29.7
35 - 44 Years of Age	109.5	120.3	125.9	137.9	146.7	152.8	163.1	176.3	185.7	195.7
0 - 8 Years Schooling	7	6.2	5.7	6.8	5.3	5.4	7.9	7.8	7.7	4.8
High School	62.2	65.9	65.9	70.9	73.8	75	80.6	82.6	90.4	77.5
Some Post-Secondary	11.7	13.1	15.3	17.9	18	20.7	18.3	22	23.6	24.2
Post Secondary Certificate	16.1	19.8	20.6	21.5	24.1	25	27.8	32.6	30.3	56.8
University Degree	12.5	15.3	18.6	20.8	25.7	26.7	28.5	31.3	33.6	32.5
45 + Years of Age	129.7	131.9	133.7	136.2	139.1	142.6	148.6	157.4	167.8	175.6
0 - 8 Years Schooling	16.5	16.2	16.6	16	15.3	15	15	13.8	15	15.5
High School	76.8	76.6	75.1	76.2	77.8	76.1	82.8	80.7	90.5	73.5
Some Post-Secondary	10.2	11.7	11.9	11.7	13.4	13.4	12.2	14.7	15	14.3
Post Secondary Certificate	15.2	16.3	17.4	19.2	18.4	21.7	23.7	29.8	27.9	51.2
University Degree	10.9	11.1	12.7	13.2	14.2	16.5	15	18.4	19.4	21.1
Females 20+	484.9	503.9	516.3	536.4	550.6	564.2	581.8	603.5	637.5	658.6
0 - 8 Years Schooling	28.4	26.8	26.2	26.6	24.1	24.4	27.1	25.5	26.2	24.2
High School	272	279.3	278	286.1	294.5	290.4	303	299.4	325.4	274.3
Some Post-Secondary	62.7	66.6	71.6	75.1	79.3	81.8	75.6	85.1	86.7	85.1
Post Secondary Certificate	66	71.6	73.9	80.5	77.2	85.6	97.9	105.5	108.3	187.4
University Degree	53.9	58.1	65.3	67	74.3	80.9	77.2	87.1	89.6	86.7

* Note: After 1989, Statistics Canada revised the educational attainment questions in the Labour Force Survey. For this reason, values reported for the year 1990 cannot be compared to earlier years.

Figure 2.3

B.C. Labour Force by Educational Attainment & Age, 1981 & 1989

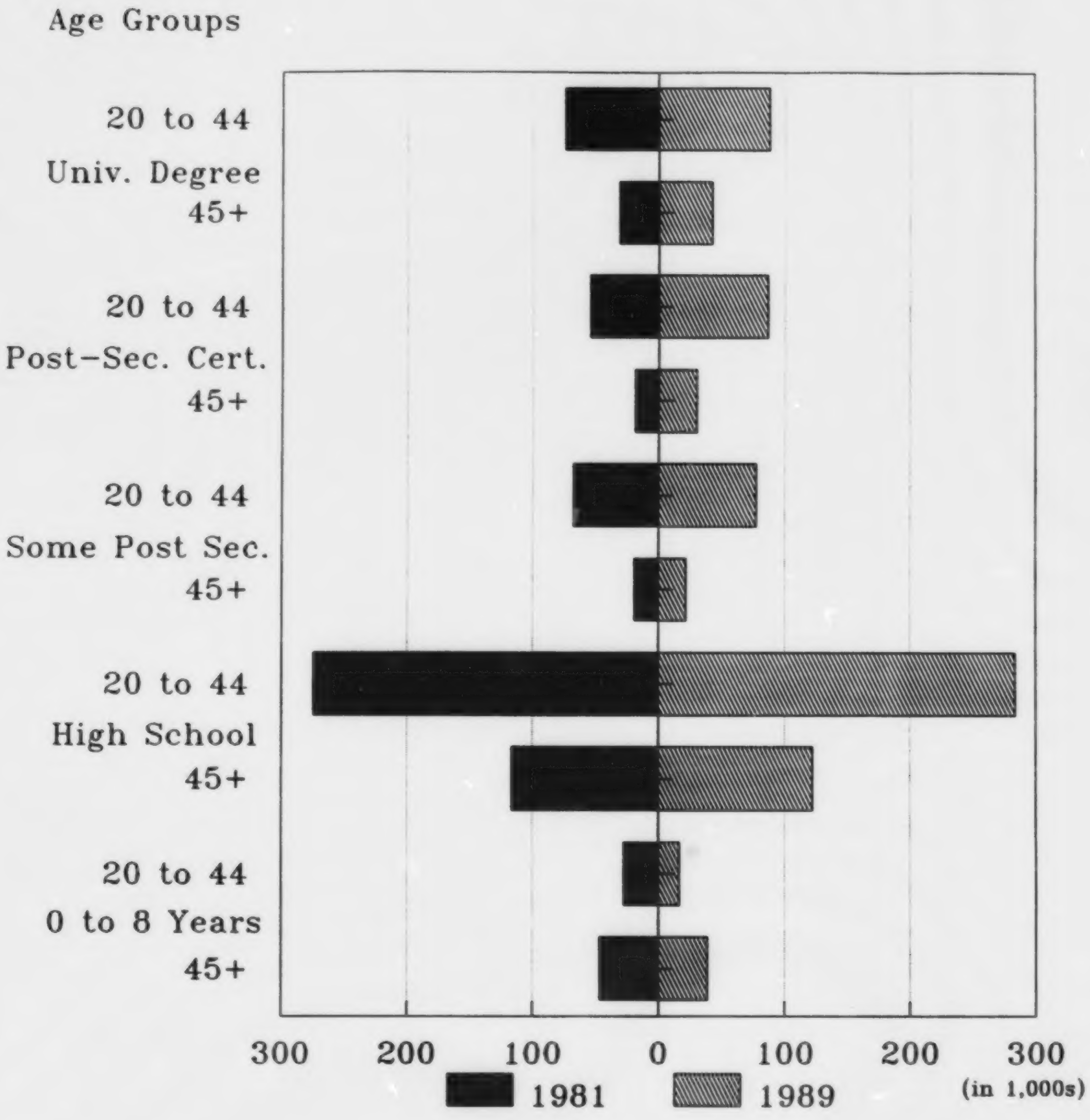
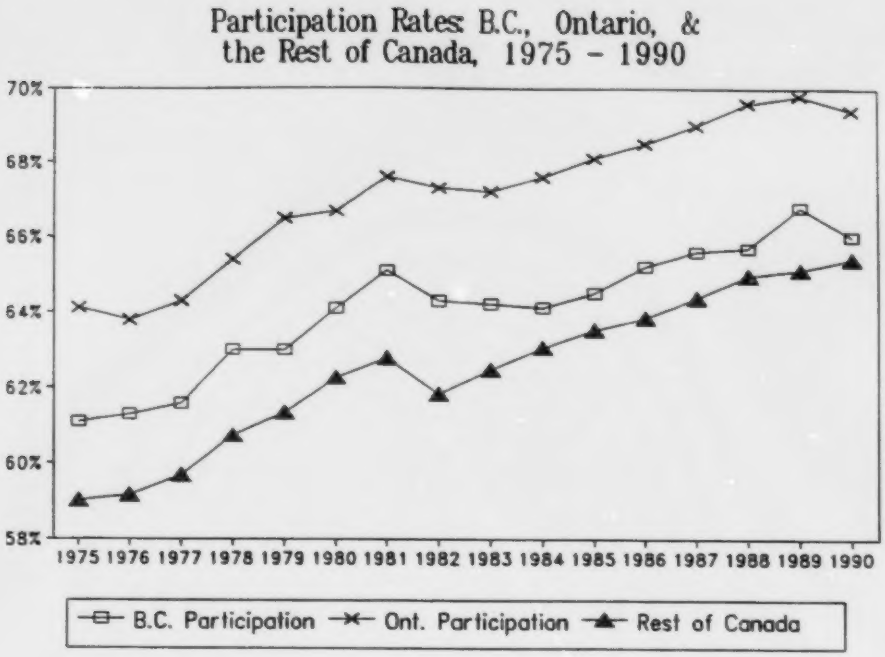


Figure 2.4

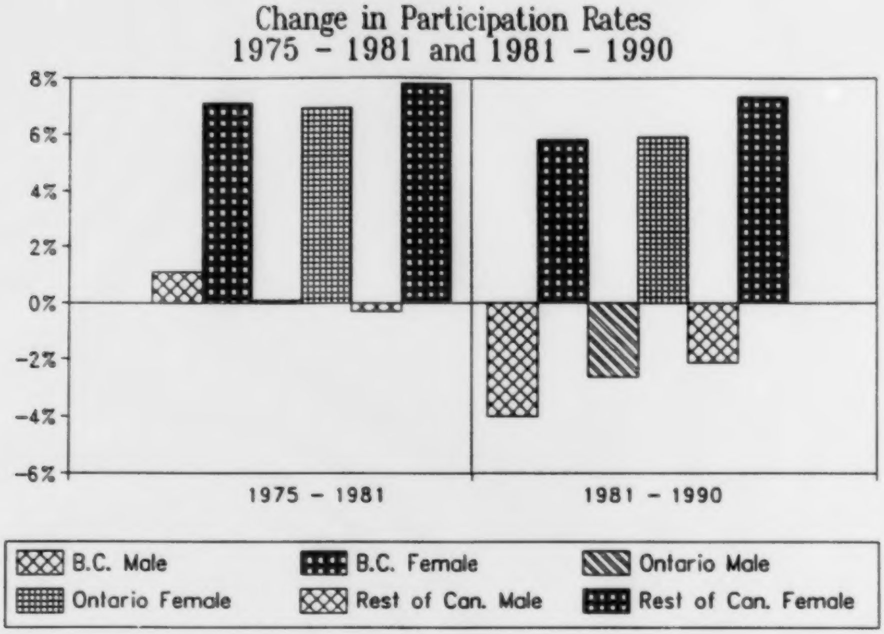


Participation Rates: 1975 - 1990
B.C. Compared to Ontario and the Rest of Canada *

Year	Participation Rate B.C.	Participation Rate Ont.	Participation Rate Rest of Canada
1975	61.1%	64.1%	59.0%
1976	61.3%	63.8%	59.1%
1977	61.6%	64.3%	59.7%
1978	63.0%	65.4%	60.8%
1979	63.0%	66.5%	61.4%
1980	64.1%	66.7%	62.3%
1981	65.1%	67.6%	62.8%
1982	64.3%	67.3%	61.9%
1983	64.2%	67.2%	62.5%
1984	64.1%	67.6%	63.1%
1985	64.5%	68.1%	63.5%
1986	65.2%	68.5%	63.9%
1987	65.6%	69.0%	64.4%
1988	65.7%	69.6%	65.0%
1989	66.8%	69.8%	65.1%
1990	66.0%	69.4%	65.4%

* Rest of Canada Excludes B.C. and Ontario

Figure 2.5

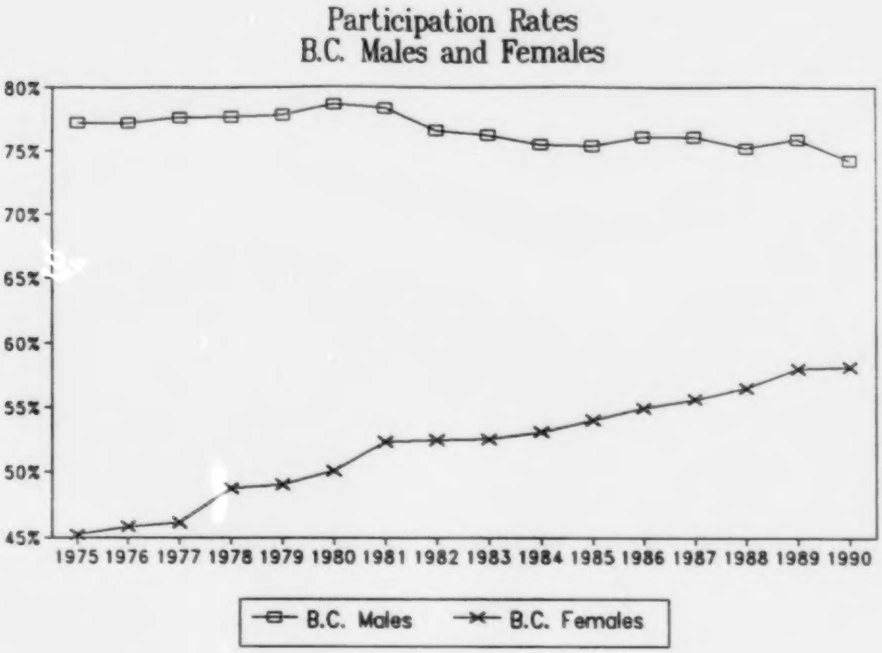


Change in Participation Rates: 1975 to 1981 and 1981 to 1990
B.C. Compared to Ontario and the Rest of Canada *
Males and Females

	Partici-pation Rates 1975	Partici-pation Rates 1981	Change in Rate 1975 - 1981	Partici-pation Rates 1990	Change in Rate 1981 - 1990
B.C. Males	77.2%	78.3%	1.1	74.3%	-4.00
B.C. Females	45.2%	52.3%	7.1	58.1%	5.80
Ontario Males	80.3%	80.4%	0.1	77.8%	-2.60
Ontario Females	48.6%	55.5%	6.9	61.4%	5.90
Rest of Canada Males	77.4%	77.1%	-0.30	75.0%	-2.10
Rest of Canada Females	41.2%	49.0%	7.8	56.3%	7.3

* Rest of Canada Excludes B.C. and Ontario

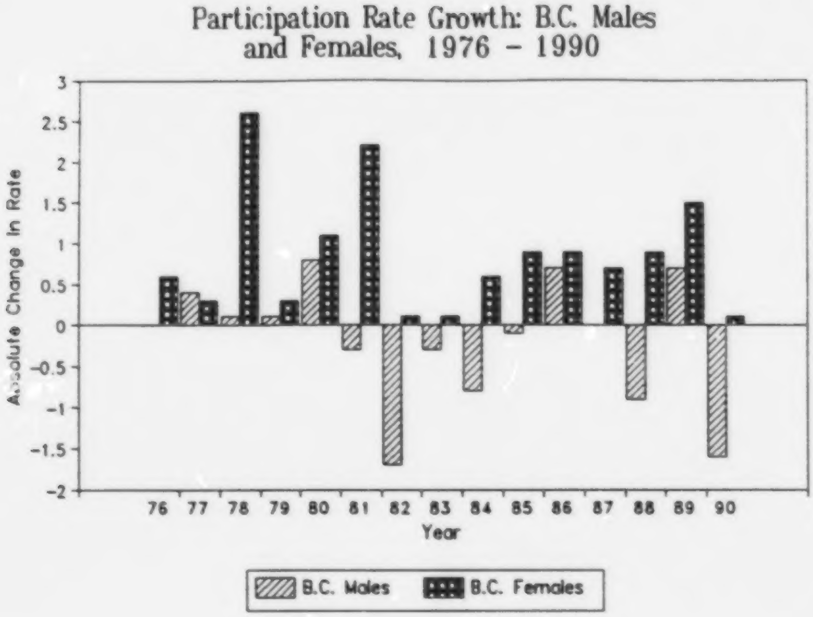
Figure 2.6



Participation Rates: 1975 - 1990
B.C. Males Compared to B.C. Females

Year	Partici-pation Rate: B.C. Males	Partici-pation Rate: B.C. Females
1975	77.2%	45.2%
1976	77.2%	45.8%
1977	77.6%	46.1%
1978	77.7%	48.7%
1979	77.8%	49.0%
1980	78.6%	50.1%
1981	78.3%	52.3%
1982	76.6%	52.4%
1983	76.3%	52.5%
1984	75.5%	53.1%
1985	75.4%	54.0%
1986	76.1%	54.9%
1987	76.1%	55.6%
1988	75.2%	56.5%
1989	75.9%	58.0%
1990	74.3%	58.1%

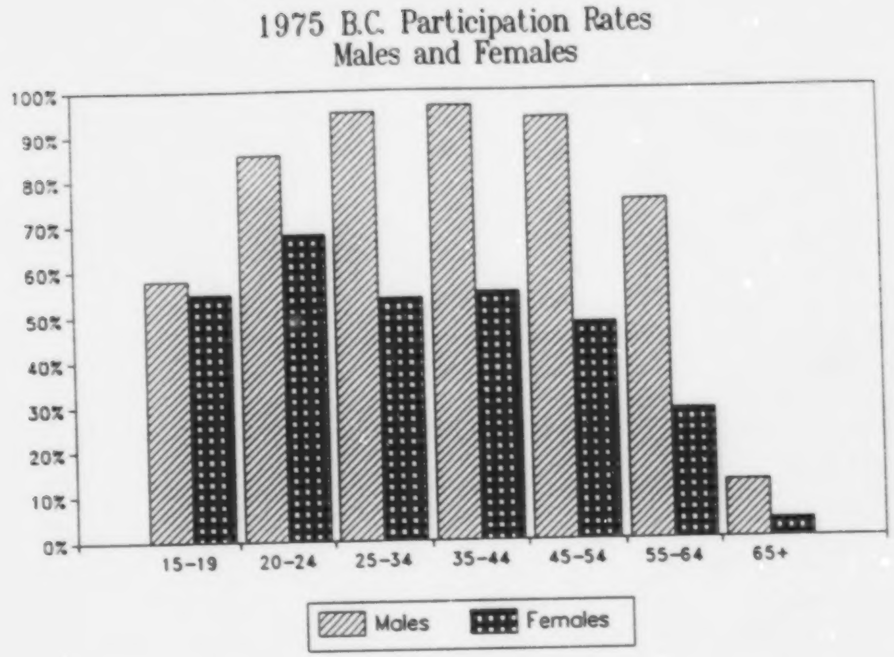
Figure 2.6.1



Growth Rate of Participation in the Labour Force: 1976 - 1990
B.C. Males and Females

Year	Male		Female	
	Partici-partion Rate (%)	Growth in Partici-pation Rate	Partici-pation Rate (%)	Growth in Partici-pation Rate
1976	77.2%	0	45.8%	0.6
1977	77.6%	0.40	46.1%	0.3
1978	77.7%	0.10	48.7%	2.6
1979	77.8%	0.10	49.0%	0.3
1980	78.6%	0.80	50.1%	1.1
1981	78.3%	-0.30	52.3%	2.2
1982	76.6%	-1.70	52.4%	0.1
1983	76.3%	-0.30	52.5%	0.1
1984	75.5%	-0.80	53.1%	0.6
1985	75.4%	-0.10	54.0%	0.9
1986	76.1%	0.70	54.9%	0.9
1987	76.1%	0.00	55.6%	0.7
1988	75.2%	-0.90	56.5%	0.9
1989	75.9%	0.70	58.0%	1.5
1990	74.3%	-1.60	58.1%	0.1

Figure 2.7.1



Participation Rates by Age Group: 1975, 1981 and 1990
B.C. Males and Females

	1975 (%)	1981 (%)	1990 (%)
Males			
15 - 19 years	57.9%	64.5%	59.4%
20 - 24 years	85.6%	88.2%	83.6%
25 - 34 years	95.0%	95.3%	94.7%
35 - 44 years	96.4%	96.9%	95.9%
45 - 54 years	93.7%	93.7%	92.1%
55 - 64 years	75.1%	72.0%	59.7%
65+	12.6%	12.0%	9.0%
Females			
15 - 19 years	54.8%	61.7%	62.0%
20 - 24 years	67.9%	72.0%	81.4%
25 - 34 years	53.8%	64.9%	75.5%
35 - 44 years	54.9%	66.1%	78.3%
45 - 54 years	48.0%	59.1%	72.3%
55 - 64 years	28.6%	34.1%	34.2%
65+	4.0%	3.6%	3.4%

Figure 2.7.2

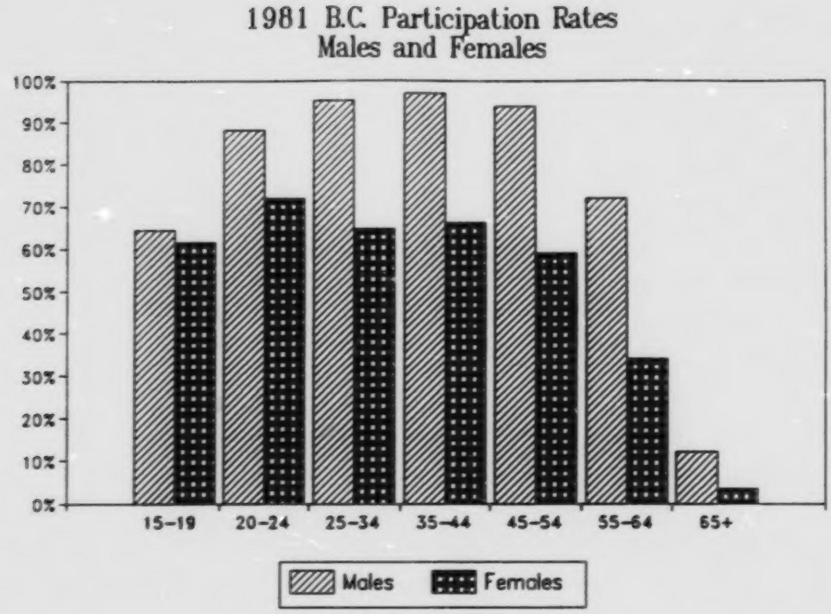


Figure 2.7.3

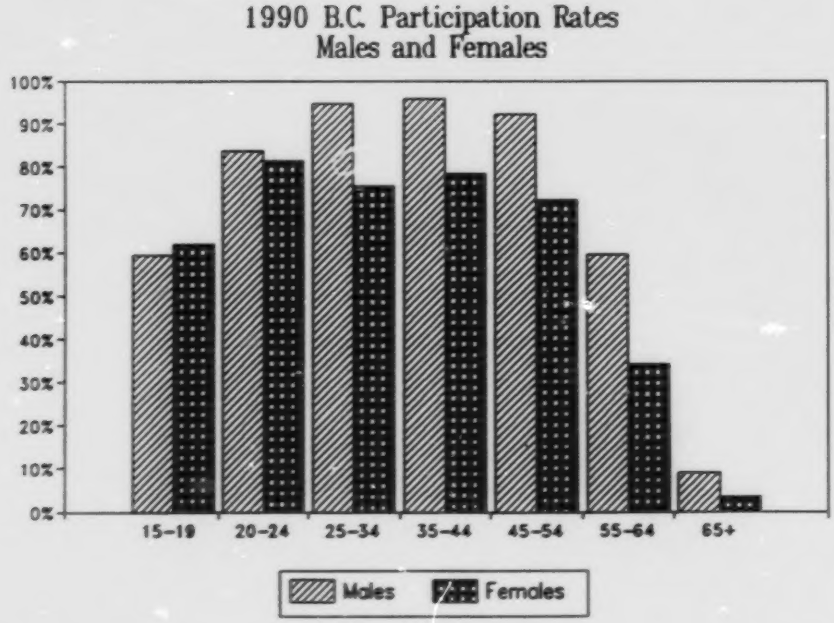
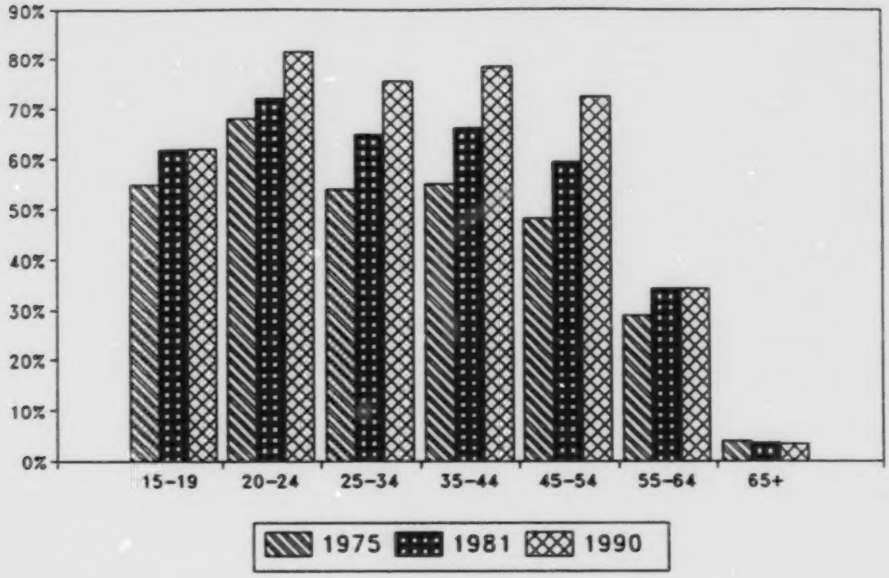


Figure 2.8

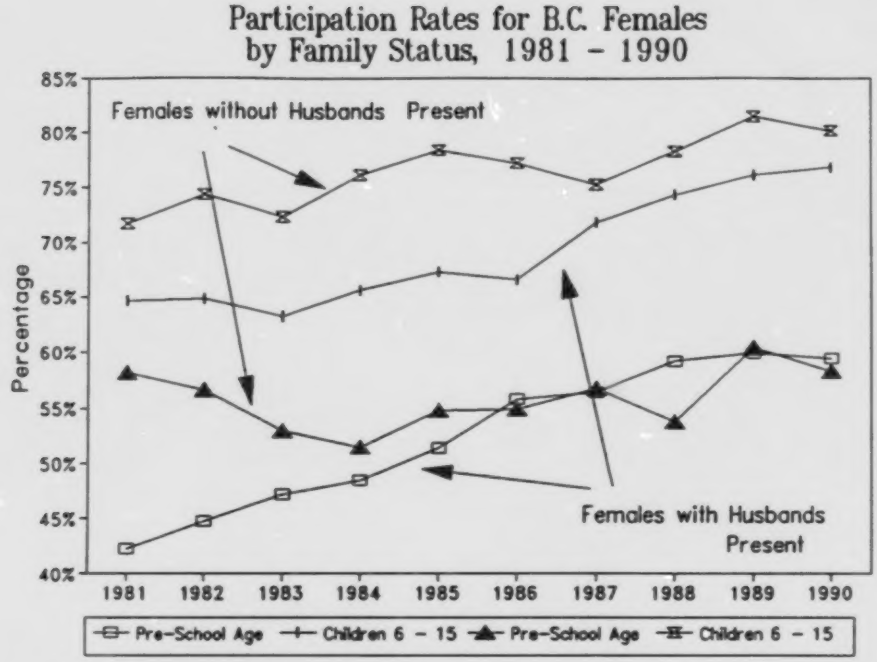
B.C. Females Participation Rates
1975, 1981 and 1990



Participation Rates by Age Group: 1975, 1981 and 1990
B.C. Females

	1975 (%)	1981 (%)	1990 (%)
15 - 19 years	54.8%	61.7%	62.0%
20 - 24 years	67.9%	72.0%	81.4%
25 - 34 years	53.8%	64.9%	75.5%
35 - 44 years	54.9%	66.1%	78.3%
45 - 54 years	48.0%	59.1%	72.3%
55 - 64 years	28.6%	34.1%	34.2%
65+	4.0%	3.6%	3.4%

Figure 2.9



Labour Force Participation Rates: 1981 - 1990
B.C. Females

	All Families			Females with Husband Present			Females without Husband Present		
Year	With Pre-School Aged Child(ren)	With Child(ren) 6 - 15 Years	Without Children Under 16 Years	With Pre-School Aged Child(ren)	With Child(ren) 6 - 15 Years	Without Children Under 16 Years	With Pre-School Aged Child(ren)	With Child(ren) 6 - 15 Years	Without Children Under 16 Years
1981	43.90%	66.50%	47.90%	42.20%	64.70%	46.30%	58.20%	71.80%	57.70%
1982	46.30%	66.70%	48.10%	44.70%	64.90%	46.10%	56.60%	74.40%	58.20%
1983	48.00%	65.20%	48.90%	47.10%	63.20%	47.00%	52.90%	72.40%	56.40%
1984	49.10%	68.00%	50.30%	48.40%	65.60%	48.80%	51.40%	76.10%	57.30%
1985	51.90%	70.00%	49.00%	51.30%	67.30%	47.70%	54.70%	78.40%	54.70%
1986	55.80%	69.20%	50.50%	55.80%	66.60%	49.30%	54.90%	77.20%	52.80%
1987	56.80%	73.40%	51.40%	56.40%	71.90%	49.80%	56.70%	75.30%	55.20%
1988	58.90%	75.40%	51.60%	59.20%	74.40%	50.40%	53.70%	78.30%	55.80%
1989	60.40%	77.40%	53.40%	60.00%	76.10%	52.10%	60.50%	81.50%	57.20%
1990	59.70%	78.00%	52.80%	59.50%	76.90%	51.50%	58.30%	80.20%	57.00%

Table 2.3

Indexed Participation Rate by Educational Attainment: 1975 - 1990
Indexed to 1981
B.C., Both Sexes

Year	0 - 8 Years Rate (%)	Index	9 - 13 Years Rate (%)	Index	Some Post-Secondary Rate (%)	Index	Post-Secondary Certificate Rate (%)	Index	University Degree Rate (%)	Index	Total Participation Rate (%)	Index
1975	41.9%	1.06	61.9%	0.94	66.4%	0.93	70.1%	0.95	76.3%	0.96	61.1%	0.94
1976	41.5%	1.05	61.8%	0.93	68.8%	0.96	71.3%	0.97	79.3%	1.00	61.3%	0.94
1977	41.0%	1.04	61.8%	0.93	69.0%	0.96	71.6%	0.97	78.9%	0.99	61.6%	0.95
1978	41.0%	1.04	63.6%	0.96	69.6%	0.97	72.0%	0.98	81.8%	1.03	63.0%	0.97
1979	41.0%	1.04	63.7%	0.96	71.0%	0.99	71.3%	0.97	79.2%	0.99	63.2%	0.97
1980	39.7%	1.01	65.0%	0.98	71.1%	0.99	72.2%	0.98	79.3%	1.00	64.1%	0.98
1981	39.5%	1.00	66.1%	1.00	71.6%	1.00	73.7%	1.00	79.6%	1.00	65.1%	1.00
1982	36.6%	0.93	64.8%	0.98	72.3%	1.01	74.8%	1.01	79.8%	1.00	64.3%	0.99
1983	38.6%	0.98	63.9%	0.97	72.0%	1.01	73.1%	0.99	80.5%	1.01	64.2%	0.99
1984	36.2%	0.92	63.9%	0.97	71.7%	1.00	74.3%	1.01	80.2%	1.01	64.1%	0.98
1985	36.3%	0.92	63.7%	0.96	73.1%	1.02	74.7%	1.01	80.3%	1.01	64.5%	0.99
1986	37.0%	0.94	63.9%	0.97	74.4%	1.04	75.1%	1.02	80.3%	1.01	65.2%	1.00
1987	37.5%	0.95	64.2%	0.97	73.5%	1.03	77.4%	1.05	79.8%	1.00	65.6%	1.01
1988	35.4%	0.90	65.0%	0.98	70.9%	0.99	76.7%	1.04	80.2%	1.01	65.7%	1.01
1989	36.4%	0.92	66.3%	1.00	73.2%	1.02	76.1%	1.03	80.1%	1.01	66.8%	1.03
1990 *	35.4%	0.90	62.7%	0.95	71.3%	1.00	74.8%	1.01	80.1%	1.01	66.0%	1.01

*In 1990 changes made to Educational Attainment questions meant that the highest level of education was recorded rather than the number of years spent in school.As well, the post-secondary classification was expanded to include any education which could be counted towards a degree, certificate or diploma.

Figure 2.10

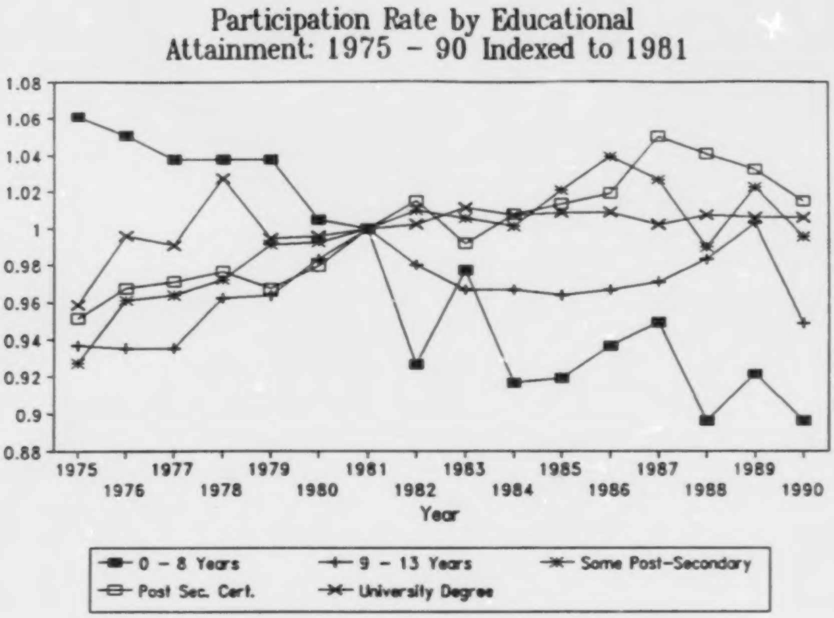
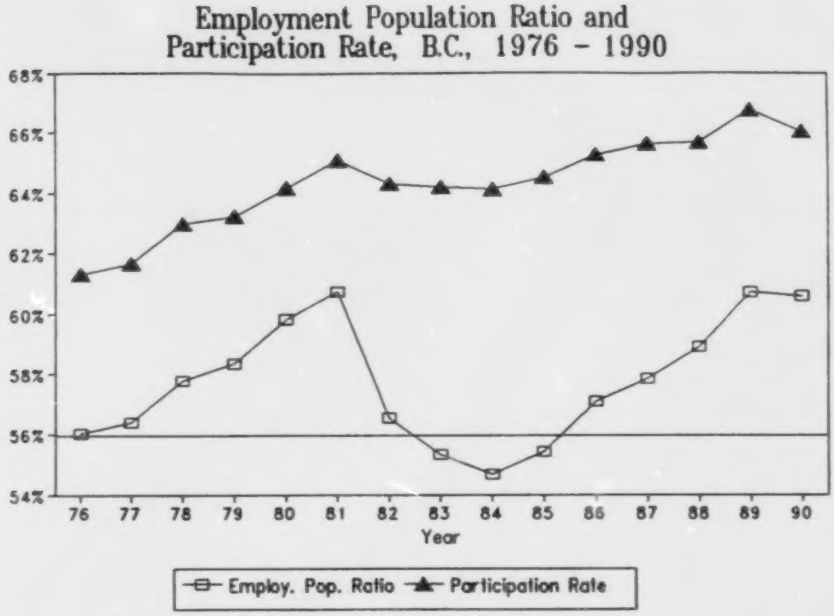

Participation Rate by Educational Attainment: 1975 - 90 Indexed to 1981
1.08
1.06
1.04
1.02
1
0.98
0.96
0.94
0.92
0.9
0.88
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
Year
0 - 8 Years
9 - 13 Years
Some Post-Secondary
Post Sec. Cert.
University Degree

Figure 2.11.1

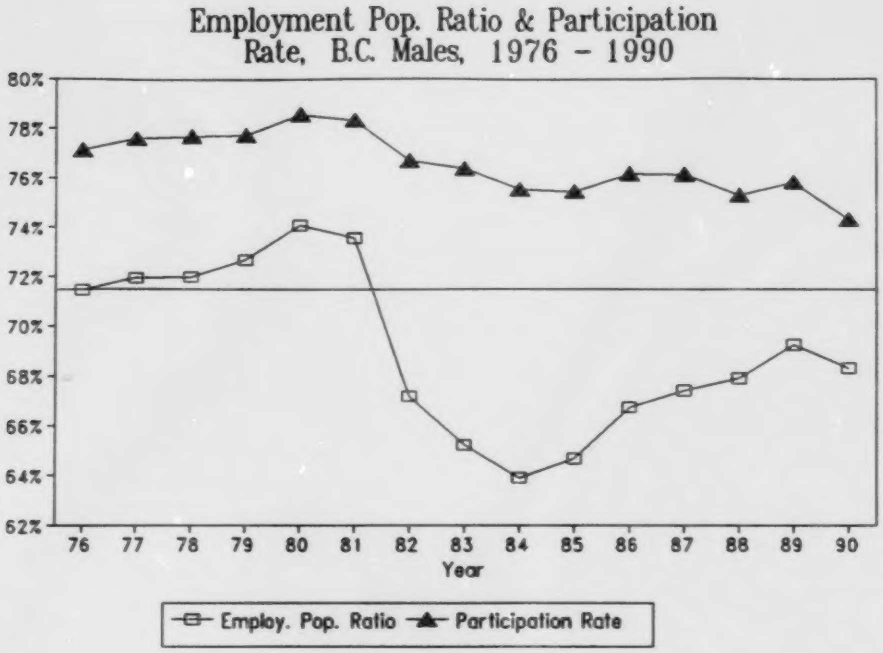


Employment Population Ratio and Participation Rate, B.C., 1976 - 1990

Employment and Participation Rates: 1976 - 1990
British Columbia, Both Sexes

Year	Employment (000)	Labour Force (000)	Population (000)	Employment Population Ratio (%)	Participation Rate (%)
1976	1021	1117	1822	56.0%	61.3%
1977	1050	1148	1862	56.4%	61.7%
1978	1103	1202	1909	57.8%	63.0%
1979	1144	1239	1960	58.4%	63.2%
1980	1213	1301	2028	59.8%	64.2%
1981	1270	1361	2091	60.7%	65.1%
1982	1202	1367	2126	56.5%	64.3%
1983	1190	1380	2150	55.3%	64.2%
1984	1191	1396	2178	54.7%	64.1%
1985	1220	1420	2201	55.4%	64.5%
1986	1270	1451	2224	57.1%	65.2%
1987	1306	1482	2258	57.8%	65.6%
1988	1358	1514	2306	58.9%	65.7%
1989	1435	1578	2364	60.7%	66.8%
1990	1469	1601	2425	60.6%	66.0%

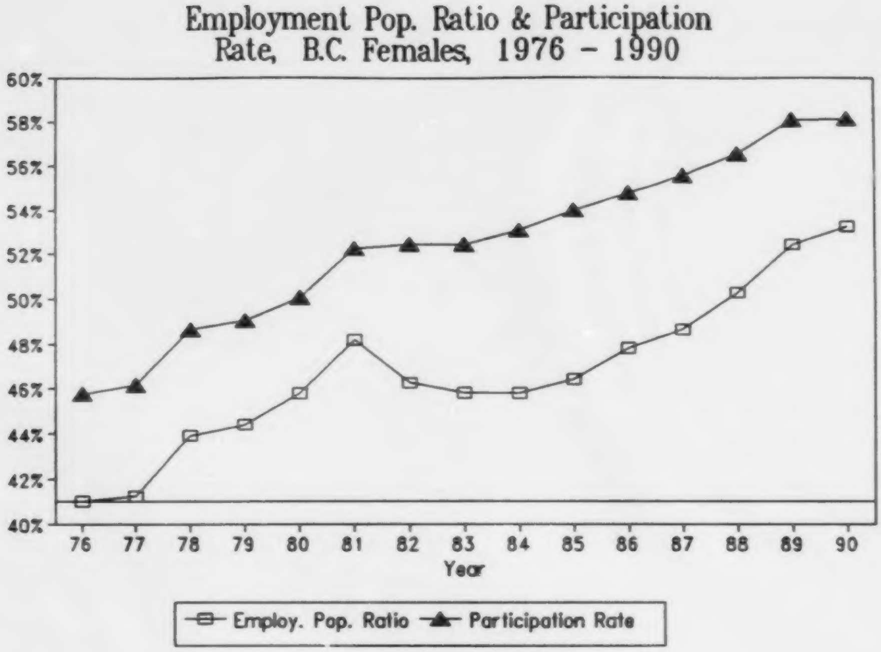
Figure 2.11.2



Employment and Participation Rates: 1976 - 1990
B.C. Males

Year	Employment (000)	Labour Force (000)	Population (000)	Employment Population Ratio (%)	Participation Rate (%)
1976	643	694	900	71.4%	77.1%
1977	661	713	919	71.9%	77.6%
1978	677	731	941	71.9%	77.7%
1979	702	751	966	72.7%	77.7%
1980	740	785	999	74.1%	78.6%
1981	757	806	1029	73.6%	78.3%
1982	702	801	1045	67.2%	76.7%
1983	689	806	1056	65.2%	76.3%
1984	683	807	1069	63.9%	75.5%
1985	698	814	1079	64.7%	75.4%
1986	727	829	1089	66.8%	76.1%
1987	745	841	1105	67.4%	76.1%
1988	766	849	1128	67.9%	75.3%
1989	801	877	1157	69.2%	75.8%
1990	810	881	1186	68.3%	74.3%

Figure 2.11.3

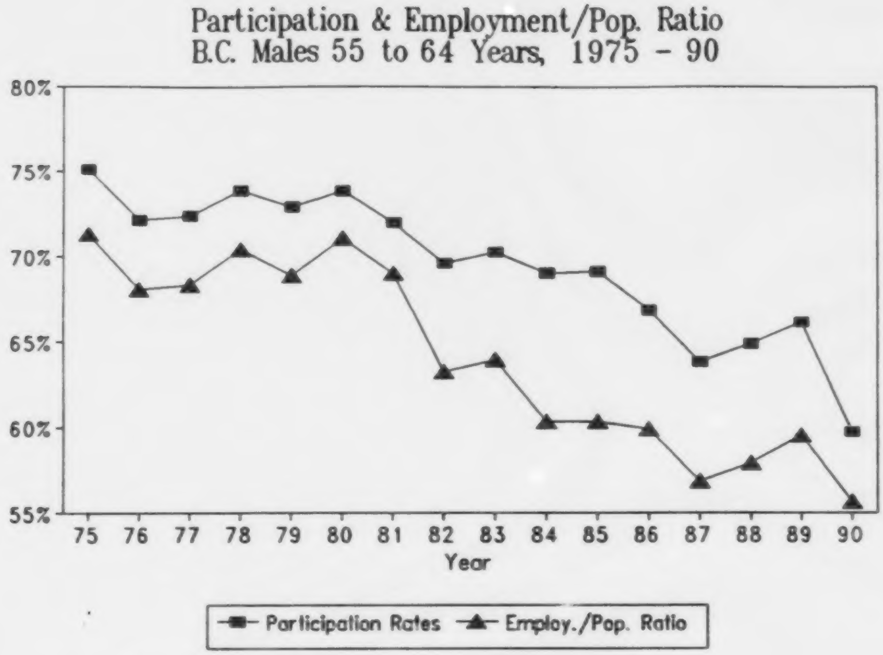


Employment Pop. Ratio & Participation Rate, B.C. Females, 1976 - 1990

Employment and Participation Rates: 1976 - 1990
British Columbia, Both Sexes

Year	Employment (000)	Labour Force (000)	Population (000)	Employment Population Ratio (%)	Participation Rate (%)
1976	1021	1117	1822	56.0%	61.3%
1977	1050	1148	1862	56.4%	61.7%
1978	1103	1202	1909	57.8%	63.0%
1979	1144	1239	1960	58.4%	63.2%
1980	1213	1301	2028	59.8%	64.2%
1981	1270	1361	2091	60.7%	65.1%
1982	1202	1367	2126	56.5%	64.3%
1983	1190	1380	2150	55.3%	64.2%
1984	1191	1396	2178	54.7%	64.1%
1985	1220	1420	2201	55.4%	64.5%
1986	1270	1451	2224	57.1%	65.2%
1987	1306	1482	2258	57.8%	65.6%
1988	1358	1514	2306	58.9%	65.7%
1989	1435	1578	2364	60.7%	66.8%
1990	1469	1601	2425	60.6%	66.0%

Figure 2.12



Participation Rates and Employment/Population Ratio: 1975 - 1990
B.C. Males, 55 Years to 64 Years

Year	Participation Rate (%)	Employment/ Population (%)
1975	75.1%	71.3%
1976	72.1%	68.0%
1977	72.4%	68.3%
1978	73.9%	70.4%
1979	72.9%	68.9%
1980	73.9%	71.1%
1981	72.0%	69.0%
1982	69.6%	63.2%
1983	70.2%	63.9%
1984	69.0%	60.3%
1985	69.1%	60.3%
1986	66.8%	59.9%
1987	63.8%	56.8%
1988	64.9%	57.9%
1989	66.1%	59.5%
1990	59.7%	55.6%

3. EMPLOYMENT

Levels of Employment in British Columbia, Ontario and the Rest of Canada

In 1975 the average number of employed people in British Columbia was 995,000. This was 10.7% of the total in Canada. In Ontario, employment totalled 3,576,000, which was 38.5% of the Canadian total. By 1990 employment in British Columbia had grown by almost 48%, to 1,469,000. In Ontario the total number of employed people increased by 38% between 1975 and 1990. (See **Table 3.1**.)

British Columbians' share of the total number of employed people in Canada had increased to 11.7% by 1990. At 2.7%, the annual rate of employment growth in British Columbia in the period 1975 to 1990 exceeded the rate in any other part of Canada.

In **Figure 3.1** changes in the level of employment in British Columbia are compared to changes in Ontario and in the rest of Canada (excluding British Columbia and Ontario) by setting each region's employment at the value 1 in 1975 and showing the ratio of employment in subsequent years relative to the value in 1975. This method of comparing data is known as indexing.

Relative to an employment index value set at 100 for each region in 1975, the values in 1990 were 148 for British Columbia, 138 for Ontario and 131 for the rest of Canada. In other words, in the 15 year period employment grew by slightly less than one-half in British Columbia, by slightly more than one-third in Ontario and by slightly less than one-third in the rest of Canada.

From 1981 to 1990 in British Columbia, the number of jobs in the service sector increased while the number of jobs in goods producing industries declined. In 1990 there were 95 goods producing jobs for every 100 that existed in 1981. In the service sector there were 125 jobs in 1990 for every 100 which existed in 1981. (See **Figure 3.2**.)

In Ontario there were 129 service sector jobs for every 100 in 1981, while the number of goods producing jobs was virtually unchanged. In the rest of Canada in 1990 there were 96 goods producing jobs for every 100 in 1981, and 118 service sector jobs. (See **Figures 3.3** and **3.4**.)

Both goods producing and service sector jobs were affected by the recession of 1981 to 1985 in British Columbia, although the greatest job loss was in goods producing industries. Growth in the number of service sector jobs after 1985 was largely responsible for the overall recovery and growth in the level of employment in British Columbia. (See **Figure 3.5.**)

Employment of Men and Women

In 1975, 37% of all employed people in British Columbia were women. By 1990, women accounted for 45% of total employment. In 1990 there were 179 employed women for every 100 employed in 1975. For men there were 129 employed in 1990 for every 100 employed in 1975. (See **Figures 3.6** and **3.7.**)

The number of males employed in goods producing industries in British Columbia declined from 1981 to 1990. In 1990 there were 93 males employed in goods producing industries for every 100 so employed in 1981, while in the service sector there were 116 males employed in 1990 for every 100 employed in 1981. (See **Figure 3.8.**)

Most of the new service sector jobs created between 1981 and 1990 went to women and in that period of time the employment of women in goods producing industries also increased, albeit modestly. In 1990, there were 104 women employed in goods producing industries for every 100 so employed in 1981. In service industries there were 132 women employed in 1990 for every 100 employed in 1981. (See **Figure 3.9**).

Employment by Occupation

As **Table 3.2** and **Figure 3.10** show, between 1975 and 1990, the greatest amount of employment growth occurred in managerial/professional, clerical, sales and service occupations. The number of people employed in managerial/professional occupations more than double, reaching 442,000 jobs in 1990. Almost 60% of the additional jobs in managerial/professional occupations were filled by women. In 1990 there were 232,000 people employed in clerical occupations, 157,000 in sales and 209,000 in service occupations. Over 65% of all of those working in these occupations were women. Males predominated in processing, construction, transportation, materials handling and in primary occupations.

Table 3.3 shows shares of total employment in British Columbia by occupational group. From 1975 to 1990 people in managerial and professional occupations increase as a proportion of total employment, from 21.0% to 30.1%. People in service occupations maintained a constant share (14.2%) and all other occupational groups accounted for smaller proportions of total employment. Referring back to **Table 3.2**, no occupational group declined in absolute size from 1975 to 1990.

As **Figure 3.11.1** shows, managerial and professional jobs increased as a proportion of the total employment of males and jobs in transportation (almost) maintained their share. Among women the increasing proportion of managerial/professional jobs was more pronounced than it was among men. (See **Figure 3.11.2**.) The proportion of women working in clerical jobs declined. There were small increases in the proportions of women working in primary occupations and in transportation.

Part-Time Employment

Statistics Canada defines part-time employment as those jobs in which a regular week involves less than 30 hours of paid work. Part-time work schedules are varied and include jobs in which work weeks are less than four days and work days are less than six hours. Part-time does not include jobs which are seasonal unless the weekly hours of work rule is met, even if such work only involves a few weeks of work in a year.

In 1976, 6.4% of all males employed in British Columbia were working on a part-time basis. This increased to 8.8% in 1990. (See **Table 3.4** and **Figure 3.12**.) Part-time work is much more prevalent among women than it is among men. In 1976, 25.7% of all employed women worked part-time. The proportion of women working part-time increased during the years 1978 to 1983. The proportion of women working part-time stabilized at about 30% from 1984 to 1988 and declined in 1989 and 1990, apparently with the strengthening economy.

Figure 3.13 shows the percentages of employed males and females who worked part-time but wanted full-time work.

Figure 3.14 shows the proportion of part-time workers who wanted full-time work. Those who are working part-time but want full-time work are described as involuntary part-time workers. The term "underemployed" has also been used to describe such people. The figure shows that the proportion of involuntary part-time workers increased rapidly with the onset of the recession in late 1981. By 1984, 39.1% of those who were working part-time reported that they wanted full-time work. With the recovery the proportion of involuntary part-time workers has declined, although it has not returned to its pre-recession level.

Figure 3.15 shows the proportion of all the employed people who had chosen to work part-time. The decline in this proportion in the years 1982 to 1985 is probably a reflection of the increasing numbers of employed people who were involuntarily employed on a part-time basis during the recessionary years, rather than any change in behaviour in favour of full-time work. It would appear that when the economy is expanding and when employment is increasing, about 12% to 13% of employed British Columbians choose to work on a part-time basis.

Self-Employment

As **Table 3.5** and **Figure 3.16** show, the number of self-employed people in British Columbia increased from 1981 to 1990. The rate of increase exceeded, by a considerable margin, the rate of increase of total employment in the same time period. In 1981, about 8.3% of all employed British Columbians were self-employed. By 1990 the proportion who were self-employed had risen to 9.7%. (See **Figure 3.17**.) The increase in the number of self-employed women from 1981 to 1990 was 21,600. Among men it was 20,600.

In 1990 about 72% of all self-employed people worked in service industries. Most of those who were self-employed and who worked in goods producing industries worked in agriculture or construction.

Employment by Size of Business

Table 3.6 compares estimates of employment by size of business for the years 1978 to 1988. The table shows estimates of employment for all business, for those with fewer than five "average labour units" (the definition of an "average labour unit", or ALU is at the bottom of **Table 3.6**), for those with five to twenty ALU's and for those with more than twenty ALU's.

In 1978, businesses with fewer than five ALU's accounted for 8.5% of employment and by 1988, this had increased to 11.1%. Those with five to twenty ALU's accounted for 13% of employment in 1978 and 15.6% in 1988. Businesses with more than twenty ALU's accounted for 78.5% of employment in 1978 and 73.3% in 1988.

As **Figure 3.18** shows, for every 100 people employed by a business with less than five employees in 1978, there were 171 so employed in 1988. For every 100 employed in businesses with five to twenty employees in 1978, there were 158 employed in 1988. For businesses with more than twenty employees, for every 100 people employed in 1978, there were 123 employed in 1988. Year to year growth rates in employment and total payroll are compared, by size of business, in **Table 3.7.**

Shortages of Skilled Workers

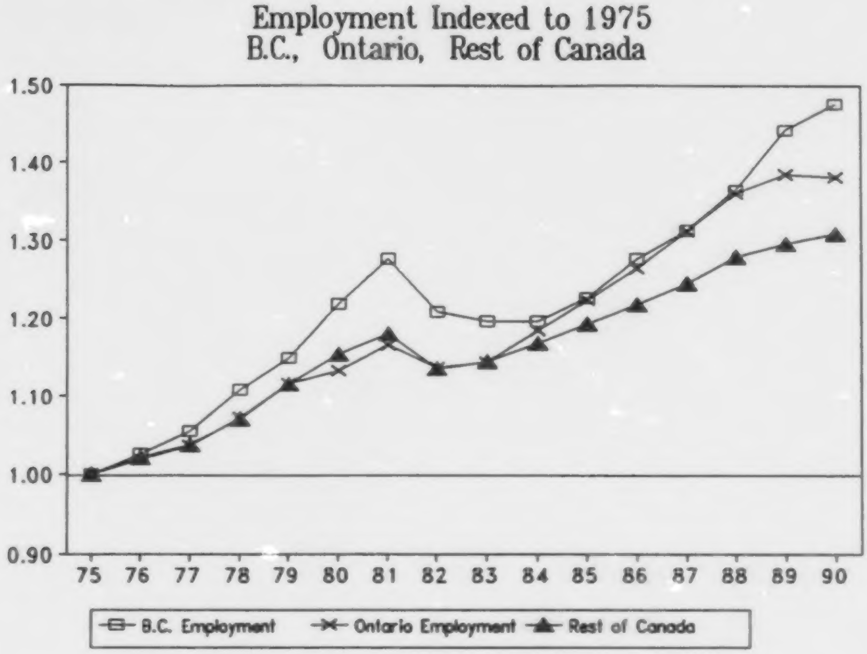
Figure 3.19 shows the percentage of employers who reported production difficulties resulting from shortages of skilled workers. Data are reported on a quarterly basis. In 1981, when the economy was nearing the end of a period of very rapid expansion, more than 20% of employers reported that they were experiencing skill shortage problems. With the onset of the recession reports of skill shortages declined to the 1% range and they remained low well into 1988. Rising shortages in 1988 are evidence of strengthening demand for labour in that period. Although overall unemployment rates remained quite high at the time (see **Section 4**), skill shortages again emerged. Reports of skill shortages declined in 1990 which is consistent with a decline in the growth rate of the economy early in that year.

Table 3.1

Regional Employment Levels: 1975 - 1990

		British Columbia	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Maritimes	Canada
1975	Employment Level (000)	995	1570	3576	2434	710	9284
	Share of Canada (%)	10.7%	16.9%	38.5%	26.2%	7.6%	
1976	Employment Level (000)	1021	1641	3643	2456	717	9477
	Share of Canada (%)	10.8%	17.3%	38.4%	25.9%	7.6%	
1977	Employment Level (000)	1050	1698	3708	2476	718	9651
	Share of Canada (%)	10.9%	17.6%	38.4%	25.7%	7.4%	
1978	Employment Level (000)	1103	1774	3835	2530	744	9987
	Share of Canada (%)	11.0%	17.8%	38.4%	25.3%	7.4%	
1979	Employment Level (000)	1144	1868	3993	2619	770	10395
	Share of Canada (%)	11.0%	18.0%	38.4%	25.2%	7.4%	
1980	Employment Level (000)	1213	1953	4053	2694	795	10708
	Share of Canada (%)	11.3%	18.2%	37.9%	25.2%	7.4%	
1981	Employment Level (000)	1270	2037	4171	2723	801	11001
	Share of Canada (%)	11.5%	18.5%	37.9%	24.8%	7.3%	
1982	Employment Level (000)	1202	2007	4063	2574	773	10618
	Share of Canada (%)	11.3%	18.9%	38.3%	24.2%	7.3%	
1983	Employment Level (000)	1190	1195	4089	2616	784	10675
	Share of Canada (%)	11.1%	11.2%	38.3%	24.5%	7.3%	
1984	Employment Level (000)	1191	2010	4235	2692	805	10932
	Share of Canada (%)	10.9%	18.4%	38.7%	24.6%	7.4%	
1985	Employment Level (000)	1220	2045	4377	2768	812	11221
	Share of Canada (%)	10.9%	18.2%	39.0%	24.7%	7.2%	
1986	Employment Level (000)	1270	2080	4524	2825	833	11531
	Share of Canada (%)	11.0%	18.0%	39.2%	24.5%	7.2%	
1987	Employment Level (000)	1306	2092	4689	2918	857	11861
	Share of Canada (%)	11.0%	17.6%	39.5%	24.6%	7.2%	
1988	Employment Level (000)	1358	2132	4862	3001	893	12245
	Share of Canada (%)	11.1%	17.4%	39.7%	24.5%	7.3%	
1989	Employment Level (000)	1435	2158	4949	3031	912	12486
	Share of Canada (%)	11.5%	17.3%	39.6%	24.3%	7.3%	
1990	Employment Level (000)	1469	2185	4937	3055	926	12572
	Share of Canada (%)	11.7%	17.4%	39.3%	24.3%	7.4%	

Figure 3.1

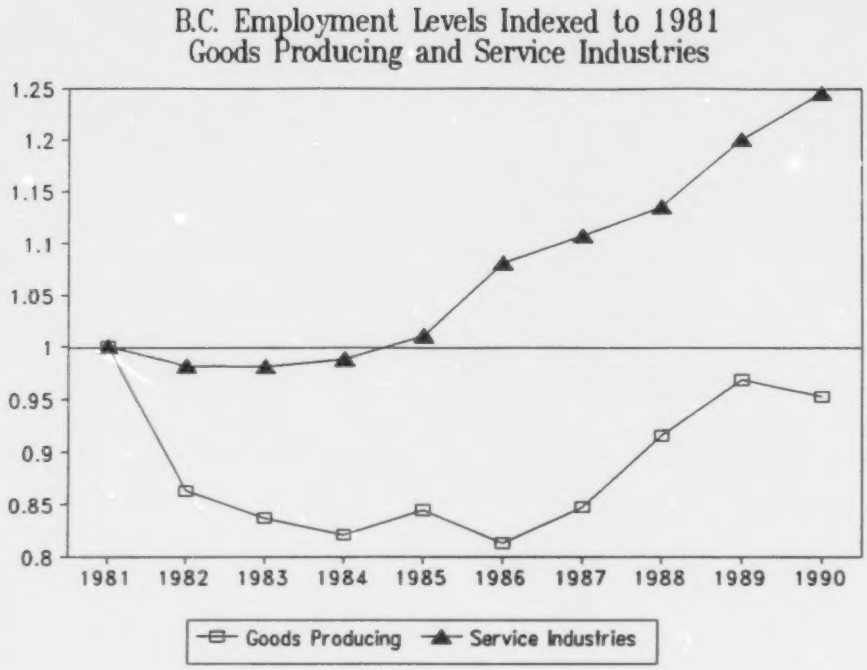


Indexed Employment Levels: 1975 - 1990
B.C., Ontario, Rest of Canada

	British Columbia		Ontario		Rest of Canada	
Year	Total (000)	Indexed to 1975	Total (000)	Indexed to 1975	Total (000)	Indexed to 1975
1975	995	1.00	3576	1.00	4713	1.00
1976	1021	1.03	3643	1.02	4813	1.02
1977	1050	1.06	3708	1.04	4893	1.04
1978	1103	1.11	3835	1.07	5049	1.07
1979	1144	1.15	3993	1.12	5258	1.12
1980	1213	1.22	4053	1.13	5442	1.15
1981	1270	1.28	4171	1.17	5560	1.18
1982	1202	1.21	4063	1.14	5353	1.14
1983	1190	1.20	4089	1.14	5396	1.14
1984	1191	1.20	4235	1.18	5506	1.17
1985	1220	1.23	4377	1.22	5624	1.19
1986	1270	1.28	4524	1.27	5737	1.22
1987	1306	1.31	4689	1.31	5866	1.24
1988	1358	1.36	4862	1.36	6025	1.28
1989	1435	1.44	4949	1.38	6102	1.29
1990	1469	1.48	4937	1.38	6166	1.31

* Rest of Canada Excludes B.C. and Ontario

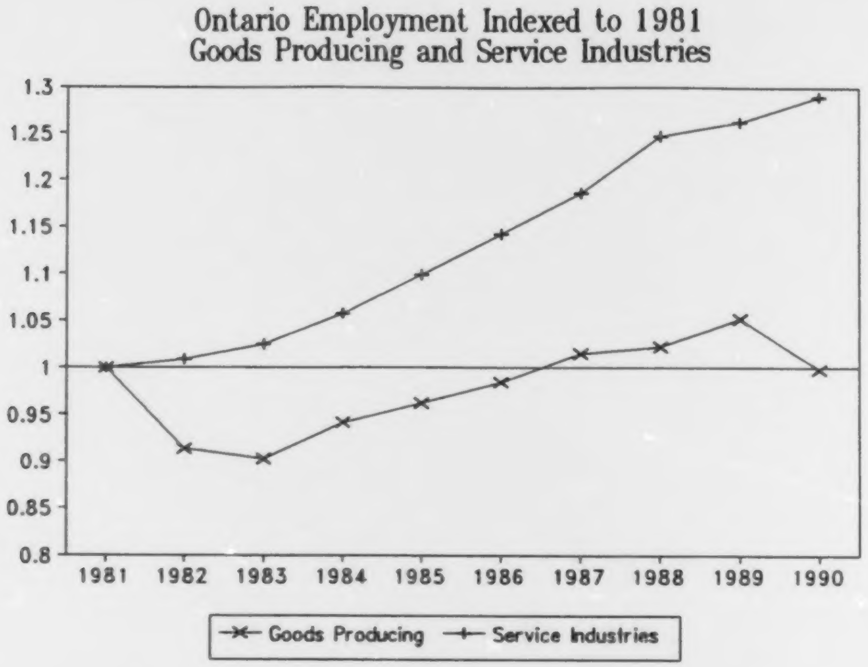
Figure 3.2



Indexed Employment Levels: 1981 - 1990
B.C. Goods Producing Industries and Service Industries

Year	Goods Producing Industries (000)	Index to 1981	Service Industries (000)	Index to 1981
1981	379	1	890	1
1982	327	0.86	874	0.98
1983	317	0.84	873	0.98
1984	311	0.82	879	0.99
1985	320	0.84	900	1.01
1986	308	0.81	962	1.08
1987	321	0.85	985	1.11
1988	347	0.92	1010	1.13
1989	367	0.97	1068	1.20
1990	361	0.95	1108	1.24

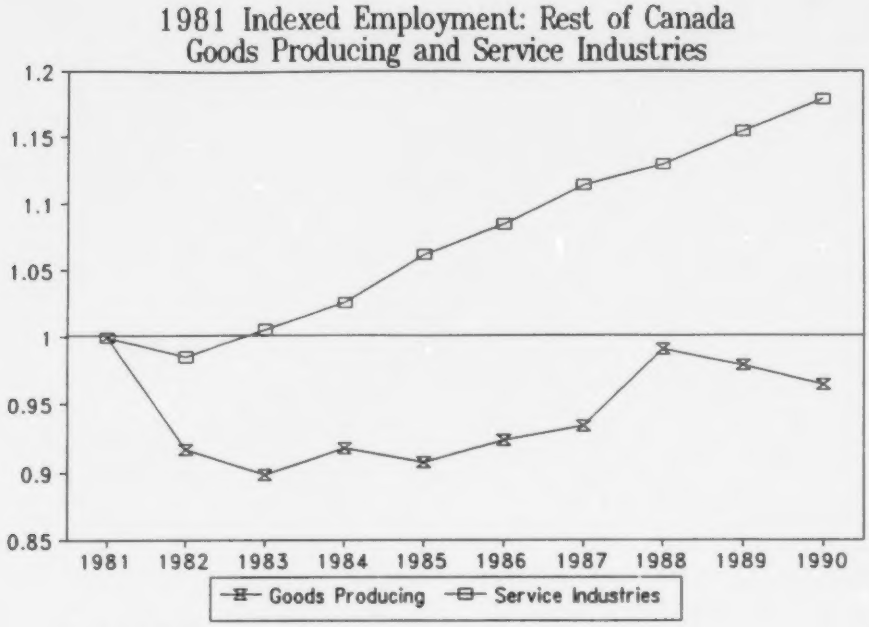
Figure 3.3



Indexed Employment Levels: 1981 - 1990
Ontario Goods Producing Industries and Service Industries

	Goods Producing Industries (000)	Index to 1981	Service Industries (000)	Index to 1981
1981	1510	1	2661	1
1982	1379	0.91	2684	1.01
1983	1363	0.90	2726	1.02
1984	1422	0.94	2814	1.06
1985	1452	0.96	2925	1.10
1986	1486	0.98	3038	1.14
1987	1532	1.01	3156	1.19
1988	1544	1.02	3318	1.25
1989	1589	1.05	3360	1.26
1990	1507	1.00	3431	1.29

Figure 3.4



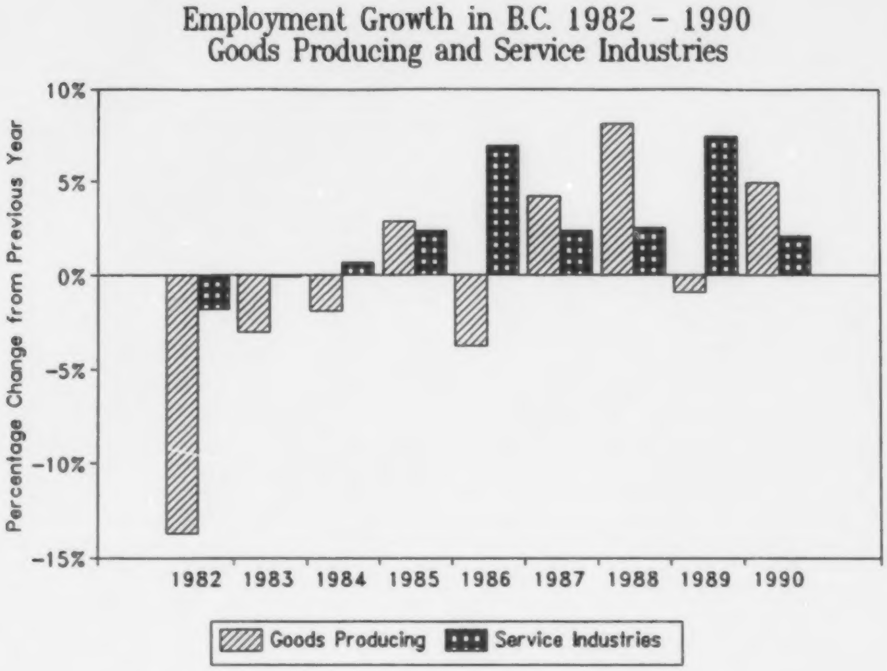
Rest of Canada Excludes B.C. and Ontario

Indexed Employment Levels: 1981 - 1990
Rest of Canada Goods Producing Industries and
Service Industries *

Year	Goods Producing Industries (000)	Index to 1981	Service Industries (000)	Index to 1981
1981	1822	1.00	3739	1.00
1982	1670	0.92	3684	0.99
1983	1637	0.90	3760	1.01
1984	1671	0.92	3835	1.03
1985	1653	0.91	3971	1.06
1986	1683	0.92	4054	1.08
1987	1702	0.93	4165	1.11
1988	1805	0.99	4221	1.13
1989	1784	0.98	4317	1.15
1990	1758	0.96	4407	1.18

* Rest of Canada Excludes B.C. and Ontario

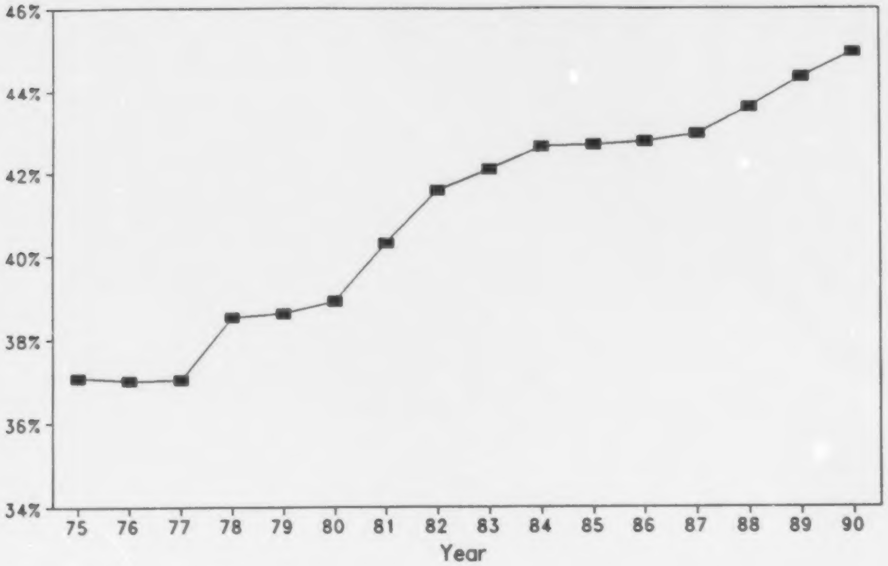
Figure 3.5


Employment Growth in B.C. 1982 - 1990
Goods Producing and Service Industries

Employment Growth Rates: 1981 - 1990
Goods Producing Industries, Service Industries and Total Growth Rate
British Columbia

Year	Goods Producing Industries (000)	Growth Rate (%)	Service Producing Industries (000)	Growth Rate (%)	Total (000)	Growth Rate (%)
1981	379		890		1270	4.70%
1982	327	-13.72%	874	-1.80%	1202	-5.35%
1983	317	-3.06%	873	-0.11%	1190	-1.00%
1984	311	-1.89%	879	0.69%	1191	0.08%
1985	320	2.89%	900	2.39%	1220	2.43%
1986	308	-3.75%	962	6.89%	1270	4.10%
1987	321	4.22%	985	2.39%	1306	2.83%
1988	347	8.10%	1010	2.54%	1358	3.98%
1989	344	-0.86%	1085	7.43%	1428	5.15%
1990	361	4.94%	1108	2.12%	1469	2.87%

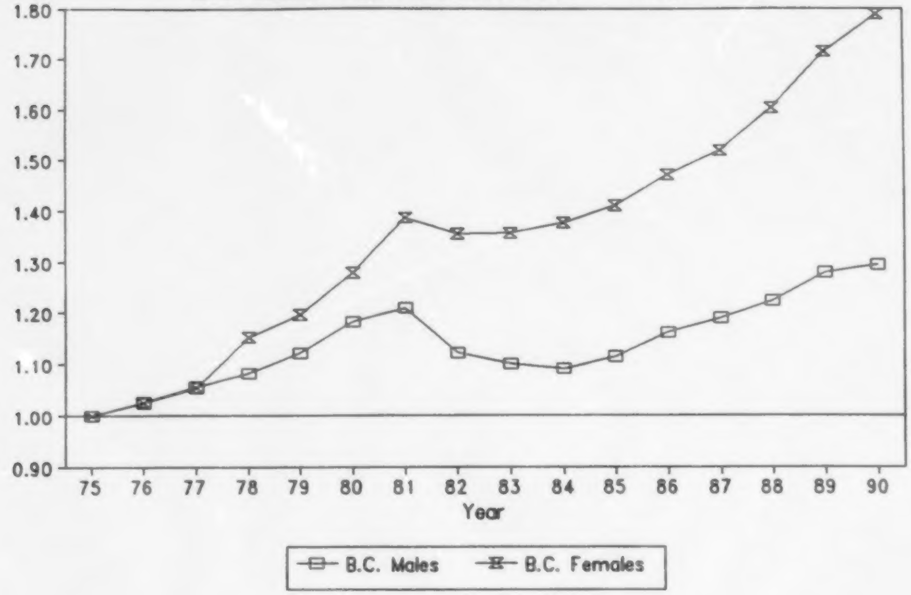
Figure 3.6



Employment: B.C. Females as a Percent of Total Employment: 1975 - 1990

Figure 3.7

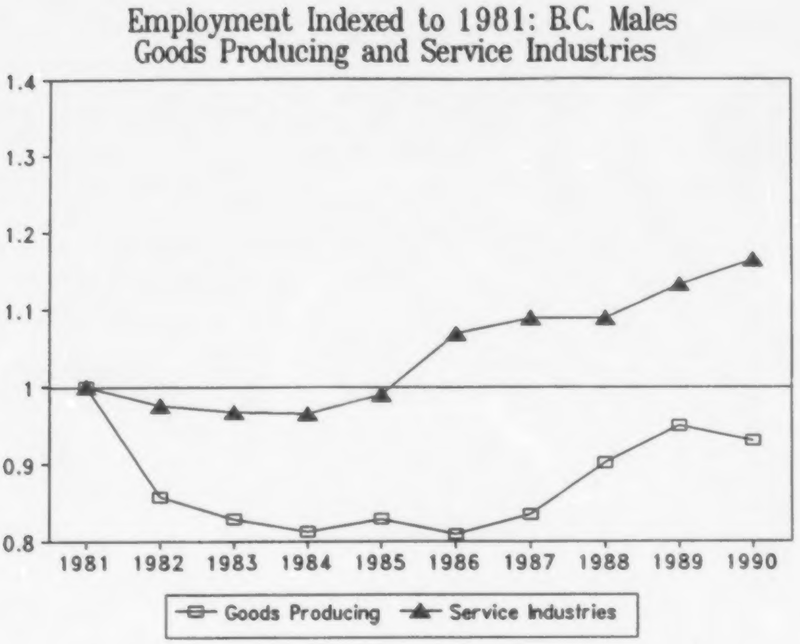
Indexed Employment Level
B.C. Males and Females: 1975 - 1990



Indexed Employment Levels: 1975 - 1990
B.C. Males and Females

Year	B.C. Males Employment (000)	B.C. Males Index	B.C. Females Employment (000)	B.C. Females Index	B.C. Females as a % of Employment
1975	626	1	369	1	37.1%
1976	643	1.03	378	1.02	37.0%
1977	661	1.06	389	1.05	37.0%
1978	677	1.08	425	1.15	38.5%
1979	702	1.12	442	1.20	38.6%
1980	740	1.18	472	1.28	38.9%
1981	757	1.21	512	1.39	40.3%
1982	702	1.12	500	1.36	41.6%
1983	689	1.10	501	1.36	42.1%
1984	683	1.09	508	1.38	42.7%
1985	698	1.12	521	1.41	42.7%
1986	727	1.16	543	1.47	42.8%
1987	745	1.19	561	1.52	43.0%
1988	766	1.22	592	1.60	43.6%
1989	801	1.28	633	1.72	44.3%
1990	810	1.29	660	1.79	44.9%

Figure 3.8

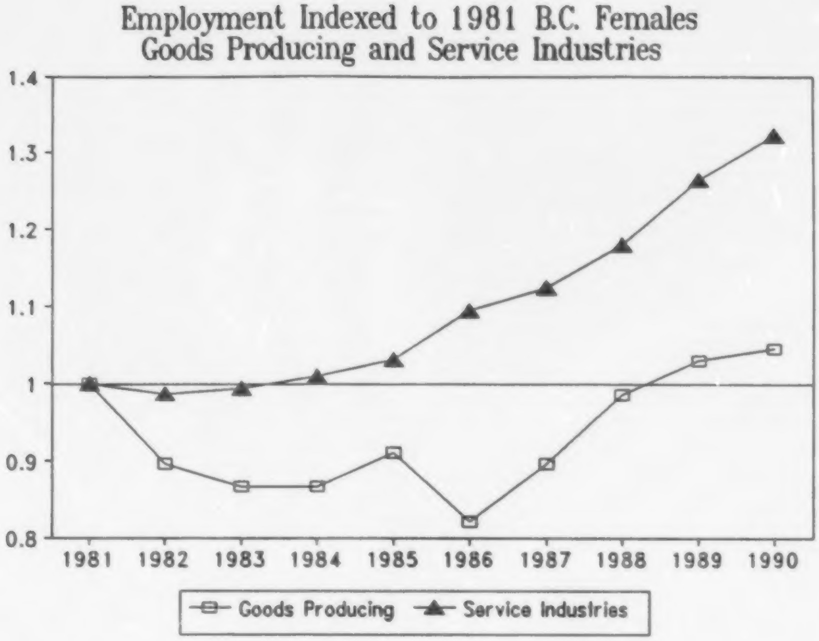


Employment Indexed to 1981: B.C. Males
Goods Producing and Service Industries

Indexed Employment: 1981 - 1990
B.C. Males in Goods Producing Industries and Service Industries

Year	Employment Goods Producing Industries (000)	Indexed to 1981	Employment Service Industries (000)	Indexed to 1981
1981	313	1.00	445	1.00
1982	268	0.86	434	0.98
1983	259	0.83	430	0.97
1984	254	0.81	429	0.96
1985	259	0.83	440	0.99
1986	253	0.81	475	1.07
1987	261	0.83	484	1.09
1988	282	0.90	484	1.09
1989	297	0.95	504	1.13
1990	291	0.93	518	1.16

Figure 3.9



Indexed Employment: 1981 - 1990
B.C. Females in Goods Producing Industries and Service Industries

Year	Employment Goods Producing Industries (000)	Indexed to 1981	Employment Service Industries (000)	Indexed to 1981
1981	67	1.00	446	1.00
1982	60	0.90	440	0.99
1983	58	0.87	443	0.99
1984	58	0.87	450	1.01
1985	61	0.91	460	1.03
1986	55	0.82	488	1.09
1987	60	0.90	501	1.12
1988	66	0.99	526	1.18
1989	69	1.03	564	1.26
1990	70	1.04	590	1.32

Table 3.2.1

B.C. Employment by Occupation: 1975 - 1990
(Both Sexes)

Year	Total Employed (000)	Managerial Professional Etc. (000)	Clerical (000)	Sales (000)	Service (000)	Primary Occupations (000)	Processing (000)	Construction (000)	Transportation (000)	Materials Handling and Other Crafts (000)
1975	995	209	171	123	142	42	133	82	49	43
1976	1021	215	166	124	143	47	143	87	51	45
1977	1050	221	175	133	148	52	146	83	46	46
1978	1103	244	186	127	153	57	159	78	54	45
1979	1144	264	190	134	163	57	157	80	51	49
1980	1213	278	202	140	183	61	161	85	54	50
1981	1270	298	222	141	187	62	163	96	55	46
1982	1202	290	212	136	182	57	148	82	51	44
1983	1190	294	203	140	185	67	134	70	53	44
1984	1191	322	201	132	176	66	132	68	52	42
1985	1220	334	202	134	180	72	138	73	49	37
1986	1270	366	206	135	193	61	141	70	56	42
1987	1306	380	204	142	190	63	143	76	60	47
1988	1358	391	218	150	193	67	150	86	57	45
1989	1435	416	229	145	209	63	162	101	59	50
1990	1470	442	232	157	209	58	154	106	66	46

Table 3.2.2

B.C. Employment by Occupation: 1975 - 1990
Males

Year	Total Employed (000)	Managerial Professional Etc. (000)	Clerical (000)	Sales (000)	Service (000)	Primary Occupations (000)	Processing (000)	Construction (000)	Transportation (000)	Materials Handling and Other Crafts (000)
1975	626	123	34	79	67	37	119	82	48	37
1976	643	128	29	78	66	41	129	86	48	39
1977	661	128	36	85	70	44	132	82	44	40
1978	677	140	35	79	68	47	142	76	52	38
1979	702	160	34	80	71	49	140	79	48	42
1980	740	167	36	83	81	51	144	84	51	44
1981	757	176	41	80	80	50	144	94	52	40
1982	702	165	36	79	78	47	131	81	47	37
1983	689	162	35	81	82	54	120	69	50	36
1984	683	179	34	74	77	53	117	66	48	35
1985	698	185	33	76	74	58	123	71	47	32
1986	727	201	36	76	81	50	125	69	54	36
1987	745	208	36	79	77	51	124	74	56	40
1988	766	213	36	79	79	54	130	84	54	37
1989	801	215	36	77	85	50	144	99	55	41
1990	810	222	40	82	83	46	136	102	61	36

Table 3.2.3

B.C. Employment by Occupation: 1975 - 1990
Females

Year	Total Employed (000)	Managerial Professional Etc. (000)	Clerical (000)	Sales (000)	Service (000)	Primary Occupations (000)	Processing (000)	Construction (000)	Transportation (000)	Materials Handling and Other Crafts (000)
1975	369	86	137	44	75	6	14	....	....	6
1976	378	87	136	46	77	7	15	....	....	6
1977	389	94	139	49	77	8	14	....	....	5
1978	425	104	151	48	85	9	17	....	....	6
1979	442	104	156	55	92	8	17	....	....	6
1980	472	111	166	56	102	10	17	....	....	6
1981	512	123	181	60	107	12	19	....	....	6
1982	500	125	176	57	104	10	17	....	....	7
1983	501	132	169	58	103	13	14	....	....	8
1984	508	143	167	58	99	13	15	....	4	6
1985	521	149	170	58	106	15	15	....	....	5
1986	543	165	169	59	112	11	17	....	....	6
1987	561	172	168	63	113	12	19	....	5	7
1988	592	178	183	71	114	13	19	....	....	8
1989	633	201	193	68	124	13	18	....	4	9
1990	660	220	191	75	125	12	18	....	4	9

Figure 3.10

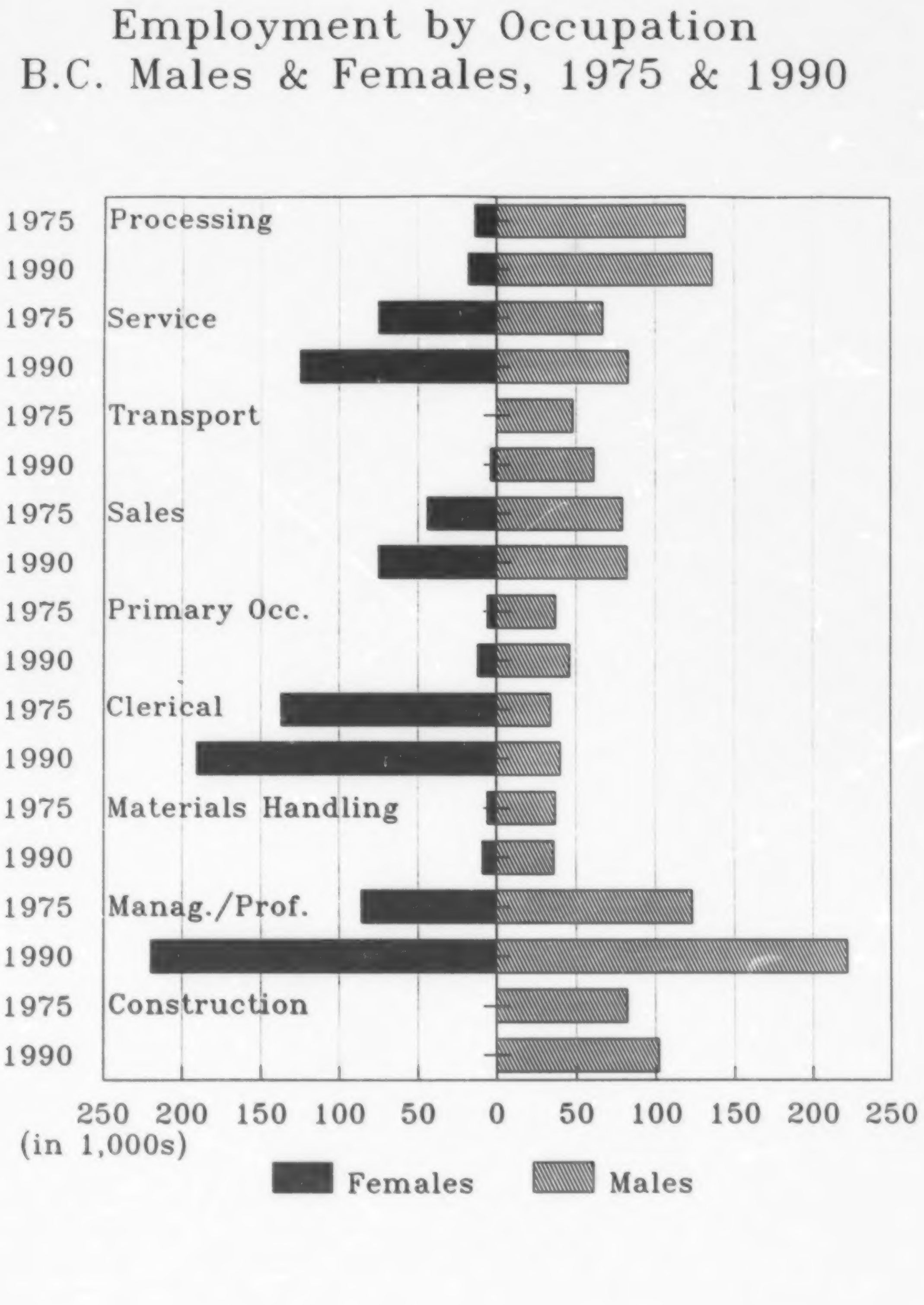

Employment by Occupation
B.C. Males & Females, 1975 & 1990
1975 Processing
1990
1975 Service
1990
1975 Transport
1990
1975 Sales
1990
1975 Primary Occ.
1990
1975 Clerical
1990
1975 Materials Handling
1990
1975 Manag./Prof.
1990
1975 Construction
1990
250 200 150 100 50 0 50 100 150 200 250
(in 1,000s)
Females
Males

Table 3.3.1

B.C. Employment by Occupation: 1975 - 1990
Percentage of Total, Both Sexes

Year	Total Employed (000)	Managerial Professional Etc. (%)	Clerical (%)	Sales (%)	Service (%)	Primary Occupations (%)	Processing (%)	Construction (%)	Transportation (%)	Materials Handling and Other Crafts (%)
1975	995	21.0%	17.2%	12.4%	14.3%	4.2%	13.4%	8.2%	4.9%	4.3%
1976	1021	21.1%	16.3%	12.1%	14.0%	4.6%	14.0%	8.5%	5.0%	4.4%
1977	1050	21.0%	16.7%	12.7%	14.1%	5.0%	13.9%	7.9%	4.4%	4.4%
1978	1103	22.1%	16.9%	11.5%	13.9%	5.2%	14.4%	7.1%	4.9%	4.1%
1979	1144	23.1%	16.6%	11.7%	14.2%	5.0%	13.7%	7.0%	4.5%	4.3%
1980	1213	22.9%	16.7%	11.5%	15.1%	5.0%	13.3%	7.0%	4.5%	4.1%
1981	1270	23.5%	17.5%	11.1%	14.7%	4.9%	12.8%	7.6%	4.3%	3.6%
1982	1202	24.1%	17.6%	11.3%	15.1%	4.7%	12.3%	6.8%	4.2%	3.7%
1983	1190	24.7%	17.1%	11.8%	15.5%	5.6%	11.3%	5.9%	4.5%	3.7%
1984	1191	27.0%	16.9%	11.1%	14.8%	5.5%	11.1%	5.7%	4.4%	3.5%
1985	1220	27.4%	16.6%	11.0%	14.8%	5.9%	11.3%	6.0%	4.0%	3.0%
1986	1270	28.8%	16.2%	10.6%	15.2%	4.8%	11.1%	5.5%	4.4%	3.3%
1987	1306	29.1%	15.6%	10.9%	14.5%	4.8%	10.9%	5.8%	4.6%	3.6%
1988	1358	28.8%	16.1%	11.0%	14.2%	4.9%	11.0%	6.3%	4.2%	3.3%
1989	1435	29.0%	16.0%	10.1%	14.6%	4.4%	11.3%	7.0%	4.1%	3.5%
1990	1470	30.1%	15.8%	10.7%	14.2%	3.9%	10.5%	7.2%	4.5%	3.1%

Table 3.3.2

B.C. Employment by Occupation: 1975 - 1990
Percentage of Total, B.C. Males

Year	Total Employed (000)	Managerial Professional Etc. (%)	Clerical (%)	Sales (%)	Service (%)	Primary Occupations (%)	Processing (%)	Construction (%)	Transportation (%)	Materials Handling and Other Crafts (%)
1975	626	19.6%	5.4%	12.6%	10.7%	5.9%	19.0%	13.1%	7.7%	5.9%
1976	643	19.9%	4.5%	12.1%	10.3%	6.4%	20.1%	13.4%	7.5%	6.1%
1977	661	19.4%	5.4%	12.9%	10.6%	6.7%	20.0%	12.4%	6.7%	6.1%
1978	677	20.7%	5.2%	11.7%	10.0%	6.9%	21.0%	11.2%	7.7%	5.6%
1979	702	22.8%	4.8%	11.4%	10.1%	7.0%	19.9%	11.3%	6.8%	6.0%
1980	740	22.6%	4.9%	11.2%	10.9%	6.9%	19.5%	11.4%	6.9%	5.9%
1981	757	23.2%	5.4%	10.6%	10.6%	6.6%	19.0%	12.4%	6.9%	5.3%
1982	702	23.5%	5.1%	11.3%	11.1%	6.7%	18.7%	11.5%	6.7%	5.3%
1983	689	23.5%	5.1%	11.8%	11.9%	7.8%	17.4%	10.0%	7.3%	5.2%
1984	683	26.2%	5.0%	10.8%	11.3%	7.8%	17.1%	9.7%	7.0%	5.1%
1985	698	26.5%	4.7%	10.9%	10.6%	8.3%	17.6%	10.2%	6.7%	4.6%
1986	727	27.6%	5.0%	10.5%	11.1%	6.9%	17.2%	9.5%	7.4%	5.0%
1987	745	27.9%	4.8%	10.6%	10.3%	6.8%	16.6%	9.9%	7.5%	5.4%
1988	766	27.8%	4.7%	10.3%	10.3%	7.0%	17.0%	11.0%	7.0%	4.8%
1989	801	26.8%	4.5%	9.6%	10.6%	6.2%	18.0%	12.4%	6.9%	5.1%
1990	810	27.4%	4.9%	10.1%	10.2%	5.7%	16.8%	12.6%	7.5%	4.4%

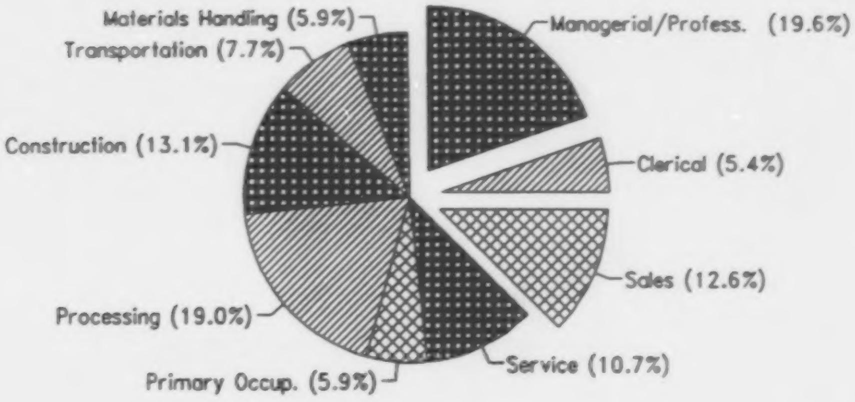
Table 3.3.3

B.C. Employment by Occupation: 1975 - 1990
Percentage of Total, B.C. Females

Year	Total Employed (000)	Managerial Professional Etc. (%)	Clerical (%)	Sales (%)	Service (%)	Primary Occupations (%)	Processing (%)	Construction (%)	Transportation (%)	Materials Handling and Other Crafts (%)
1975	369	23.3%	37.1%	11.9%	20.3%	1.6%	3.8%	....	....	1.6%
1976	378	23.0%	36.0%	12.2%	20.4%	1.9%	4.0%	....	....	1.6%
1977	389	24.2%	35.7%	12.6%	19.8%	2.1%	3.6%	....	....	1.3%
1978	425	24.5%	35.5%	11.3%	20.0%	2.1%	4.0%	....	....	1.4%
1979	442	23.5%	35.3%	12.4%	20.8%	1.8%	3.8%	....	....	1.4%
1980	472	23.5%	35.2%	11.9%	21.6%	2.1%	3.6%	....	....	1.3%
1981	512	24.0%	35.4%	11.7%	20.9%	2.3%	3.7%	....	....	1.2%
1982	500	25.0%	35.2%	11.4%	20.8%	2.0%	3.4%	....	....	1.4%
1983	501	26.3%	33.7%	11.6%	20.6%	2.6%	2.8%	....	....	1.6%
1984	508	28.1%	32.9%	11.4%	19.5%	2.6%	3.0%	....	....	1.2%
1985	521	28.6%	32.6%	11.1%	20.3%	2.9%	2.9%	....	....	1.0%
1986	543	30.4%	31.1%	10.9%	20.6%	2.0%	3.1%	....	....	1.1%
1987	561	30.7%	29.9%	11.2%	20.1%	2.1%	3.4%	....	....	1.2%
1988	592	30.1%	30.9%	12.0%	19.3%	2.2%	3.2%	....	....	1.4%
1989	633	31.8%	30.5%	10.7%	19.6%	2.1%	2.8%	....	....	1.4%
1990	660	33.3%	28.9%	11.4%	18.9%	1.8%	2.7%	....	....	1.4%

Figure 3.11.1

Employment by Occupation: B.C. Males
1975



Employment by Occupation: B.C. Males
1990

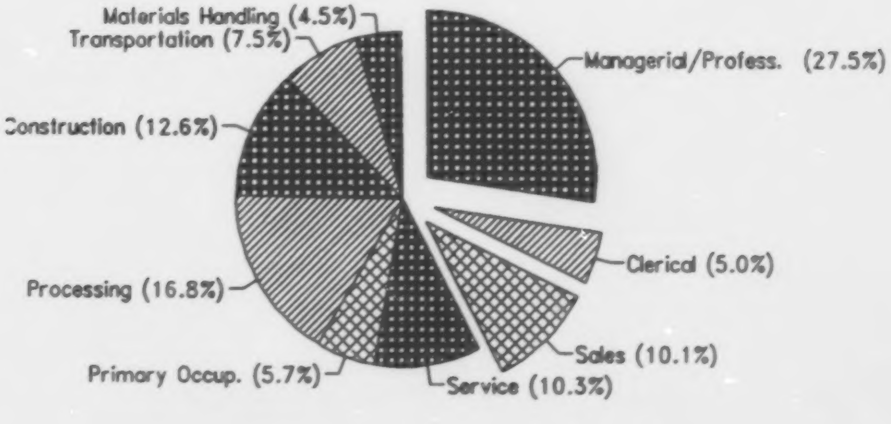
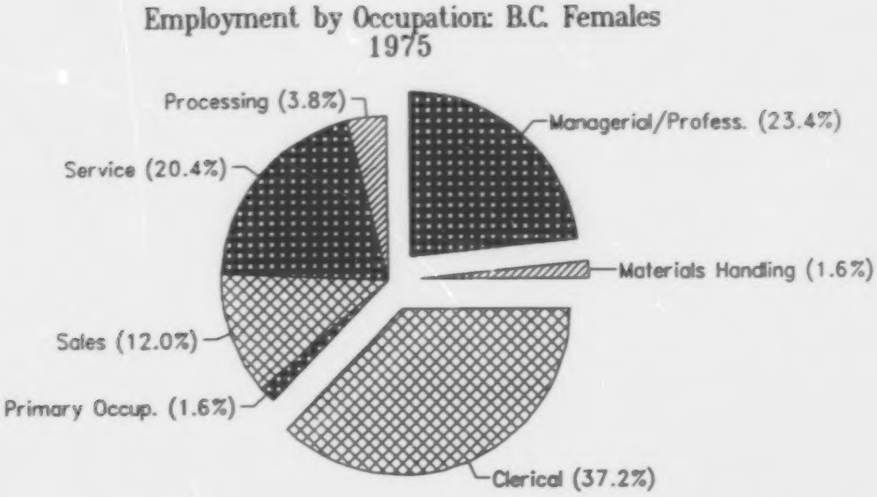


Figure 3.11.2


Employment by Occupation: B.C. Females
1975
Processing (3.8%)
Managerial/Profess. (23.4%)
Service (20.4%)
Materials Handling (1.6%)
Sales (12.0%)
Primary Occup. (1.6%)
Clerical (37.2%)

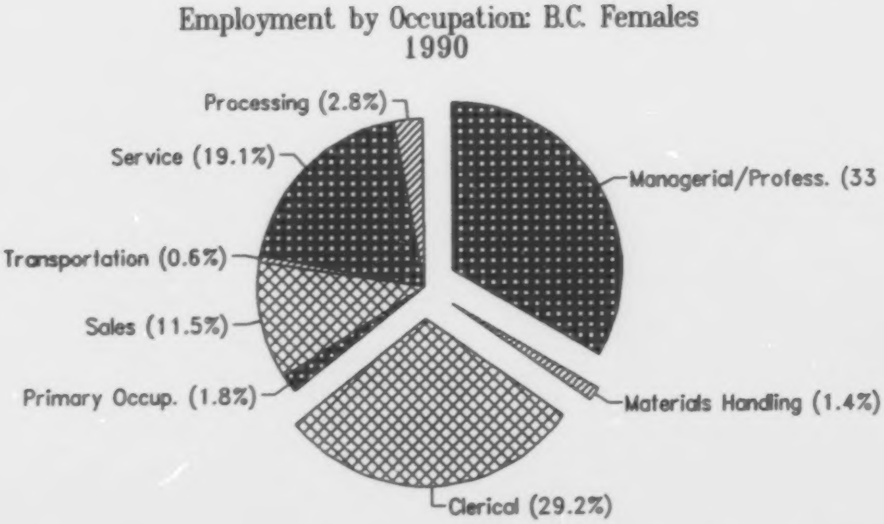

Employment by Occupation: B.C. Females
1990
Processing (2.8%)
Service (19.1%)
Managerial/Profess. (33
Transportation (0.6%)
Sales (11.5%)
Primary Occup. (1.8%)
Materials Handling (1.4%)
Clerical (29.2%)

Table 3.4.1

Total Part-Time Employment: 1976 - 1990
B.C. Males and Females

Year	Total Part-Time Employment (000)	Total Employment (000)	Total Part-Time as a % of Employment
1976	138	1021	13.5%
1977	146	1050	13.9%
1978	152	1102	13.8%
1979	164	1144	14.3%
1980	190	1212	15.7%
1981	196	1269	15.4%
1982	198	1202	16.5%
1983	218	1190	18.3%
1984	215	1191	18.1%
1985	221	1219	18.1%
1986	236	1270	18.6%
1987	234	1306	17.9%
1988	242	1358	17.8%
1989	232	1434	16.2%
1990	245	1470	16.7%

Table 3.4.2

Part-Time Employment: 1976 - 1990
British Columbia, Males

Year	Male Part-Time Employment (000)	Male Employment (000)	Male Part-Time as a % of Employment
1976	41	643	6.4%
1977	41	661	6.2%
1978	42	677	6.2%
1979	43	702	6.1%
1980	49	740	6.6%
1981	48	757	6.3%
1982	53	702	7.5%
1983	62	689	9.0%
1984	64	683	9.4%
1985	63	698	9.0%
1986	69	727	9.5%
1987	69	745	9.3%
1988	66	766	8.6%
1989	66	801	8.2%
1990	71	810	8.8%

Table 3.4.3

Part-Time Employment: 1976 - 1990
British Columbia, Females

Year	Female Part-Time Employment (000)	Female Employment (000)	Female Part-Time as a % of Employment
1976	97	378	25.7%
1977	105	389	27.0%
1978	110	425	25.9%
1979	121	442	27.4%
1980	141	472	29.9%
1981	148	512	28.9%
1982	145	500	29.0%
1983	156	501	31.1%
1984	151	508	29.7%
1985	158	521	30.3%
1986	167	543	30.8%
1987	165	561	29.4%
1988	176	592	29.7%
1989	166	633	26.2%
1990	174	660	26.4%

Figure 3.12

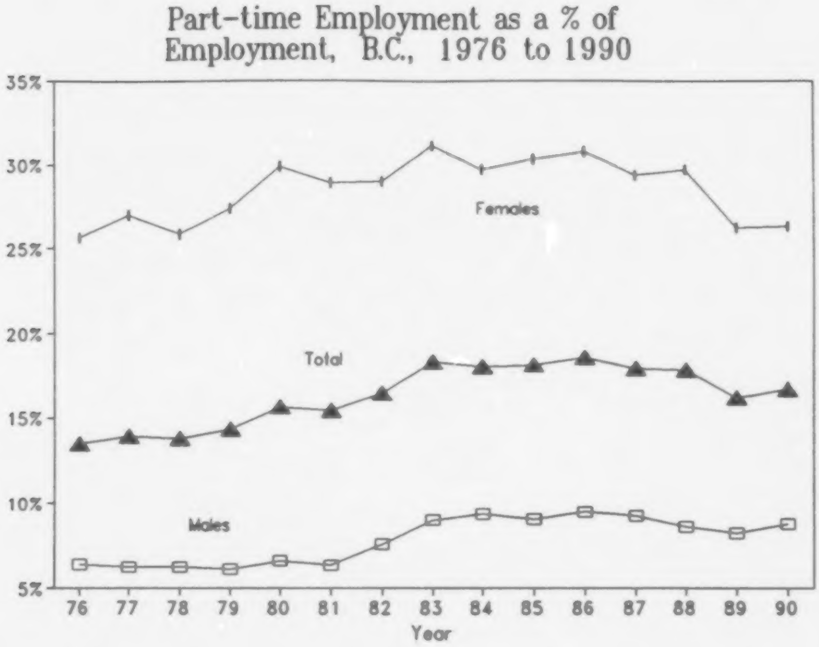
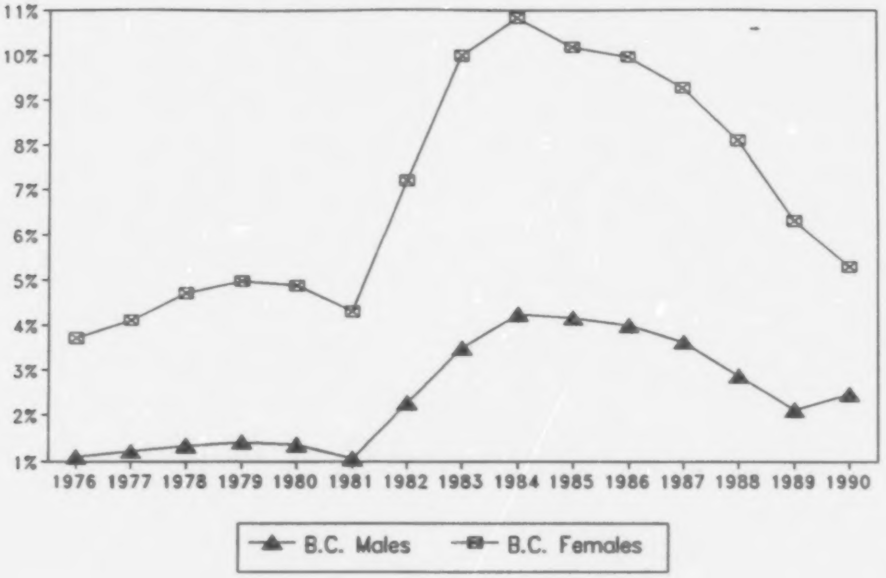

Part-time Employment as a % of Employment, B.C., 1976 to 1990
35%
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
Females
Total
Males
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
Year

Figure 3.13

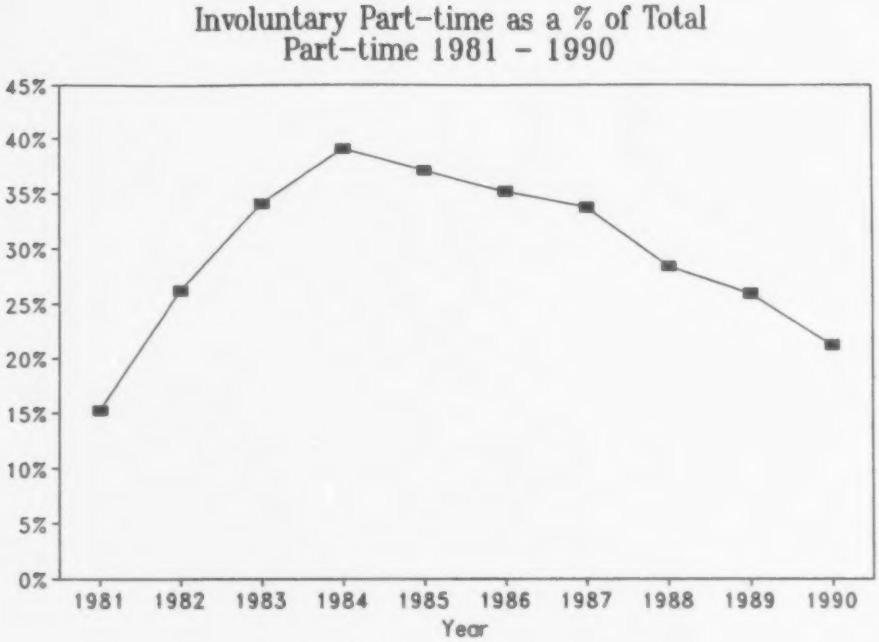


Involuntary Part-time as a Percent of Total Employment 1976 - 1990

Involuntary Part-Time as a Percent of Total Employment: 1976 - 1990
British Columbia Males and Females

Year	Male Employment (000)	Male Involuntary Part-Time (000)	Male Involuntary as a % of Employment	Female Employment (000)	Female Involuntary Part-Time (000)	Female Involuntary as a % of Employment
1976	643	7	1.09%	378	14	3.70%
1977	661	8	1.21%	389	16	4.11%
1978	677	9	1.33%	425	20	4.71%
1979	702	10	1.42%	442	22	4.98%
1980	740	10	1.35%	472	23	4.87%
1981	757	8	1.06%	512	22	4.30%
1982	702	16	2.28%	500	36	7.20%
1983	689	24	3.48%	501	50	9.98%
1984	683	29	4.25%	508	55	10.83%
1985	698	29	4.15%	521	53	10.17%
1986	727	29	3.99%	543	54	9.94%
1987	745	27	3.62%	561	52	9.27%
1988	766	22	2.87%	592	48	8.11%
1989	801	17	2.12%	633	40	6.32%
1990	810	20	2.47%	660	35	5.30%

Figure 3.14

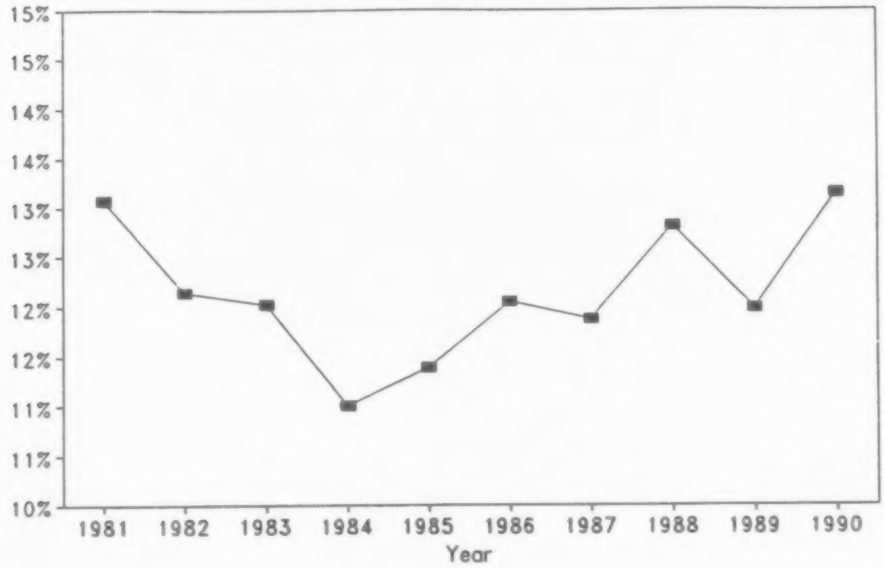

Involuntary Part-time as a % of Total Part-time 1981 - 1990

Voluntary Part-time Employed as a Percent
of Total Employed: 1981 - 1990
B.C., Both Sexes

Year	Total Employed (000)	Voluntary Part-time (000)	Voluntary Part-time (%) of Total
1981	1270	166	13.1%
1982	1202	146	12.1%
1983	1190	143	12.0%
1984	1191	131	11.0%
1985	1220	139	11.4%
1986	1270	153	12.0%
1987	1306	155	11.9%
1988	1358	174	12.8%
1989	1435	172	12.0%
1990	1469	193	13.1%

Figure 3.15

Voluntary Part-time Employment as a
Percent of Total Employed: 1981 - 1990



Involuntary Part-time as a Percent of
Total Part-time: 1981 - 1990
B.C., Both Sexes

Year	Total Part-time	Involuntary Part-time	Involuntary as a % of Total Part-time
1981	196	30	15.3%
1982	198	52	26.3%
1983	217	74	34.1%
1984	215	84	39.1%
1985	221	82	37.1%
1986	236	83	35.2%
1987	234	79	33.8%
1988	243	69	28.4%
1989	232	60	25.9%
1990	245	52	21.2%

Table 3.5.1

Working Self Employed: 1981 - 1990
British Columbia, Both Sexes

Industry	1981 (000)	1982 (000)	1983 (000)	1984 (000)	1985 (000)	1986 (000)	1987 (000)	1988 (000)	1989 (000)	1990 (000)
All Industries	101.3	101.0	113.2	115.6	124.8	129.4	133.4	136.0	129.6	143.0
Agriculture	10.7	12.9	14.9	12.7	15.2	13.5	12.5	13.7	10.3	10.7
Other Primary Ind.	4.5	4.2	6.1	4.8	6.3	6.2	5.7	6.5	6.8	4.9
Manufacturing	4.9	4.2	3.5	4.0	3.3	3.0	3.5	3.8	3.4	....
Construction	14.9	13.9	12.6	14.9	14.5	12.5	14.9	18.6	20.5	22.2
Transport/Communication/Utility	4.5	4.9	6.3	6.5	4.8	6.3	7.6	6.3	6.7	8.3
Trade	16.5	16.6	19.9	19.9	22.3	15.4	22.0	23.1	20.0	23.8
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	....	....	3.5	3.0	3.0	....	3.7	5.7	3.7	3.5
Service	43.5	42.5	46.5	49.6	55.3	35.1	63.6	58.4	57.1	66.7
Total Goods Producing Industries	35.0	35.1	37.1	36.4	39.4	38.3	36.5	42.6	41.0	40.7
Total Service Producing Industries	66.3	65.9	76.2	79.0	85.4	58.7	96.9	93.5	87.6	102.3

Table 3.5.2

Working Self Employed: 1981 - 1990
British Columbia, Males

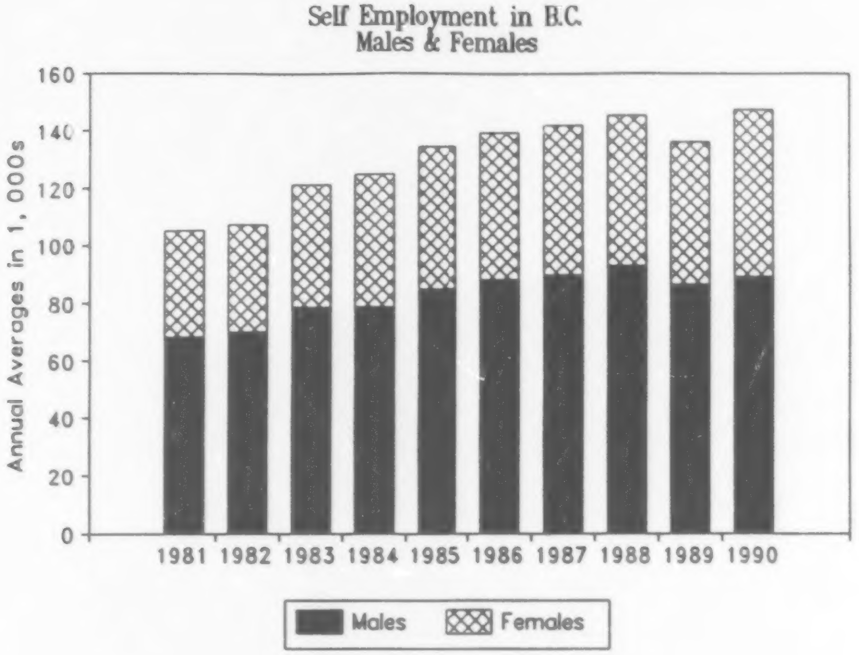
Industry	1981 (000)	1982 (000)	1983 (000)	1984 (000)	1985 (000)	1986 (000)	1987 (000)	1988 (000)	1989 (000)	1990 (000)
All Industries	66.0	65.7	72.9	72.8	78.9	82.4	85.5	87.4	82.1	86.7
Agriculture	8.1	9.4	9.9	8.2	10.0	9.0	8.7	9.7	7.0	7.1
Other Primary Ind.	4.4	3.9	5.6	4.7	6.0	5.9	5.2	6.1	6.0	4.5
Manufacturing	3.6	3.3	3.0	3.1	....	....	3.1	....	....	....
Construction	14.6	13.5	12.1	14.0	11.2	14.5	14.7	17.9	20.0	21.1
Transport/Communication/Utility	4.2	4.5	5.8	6.3	4.2	6.7	6.6	5.8	5.9	7.7
Trade	8.4	9.7	11.4	12.1	10.0	14.5	13.9	14.5	13.4	13.6
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4.2	....	....
Service	21.2	20.0	23.0	22.4	20.2	27.1	30.3	26.7	24.4	28.1
Total Goods Producing Industries	30.8	30.1	30.6	30.0	32.3	32.2	31.7	36.2	35.4	34.9
Total Service Producing Industries	35.2	35.6	42.2	42.8	36.2	50.2	53.8	51.2	46.7	51.8

Table 3.5.3

Working Self Employed: 1981 - 1990
British Columbia, Females

Industry	1981 (000)	1982 (000)	1983 (000)	1984 (000)	1985 (000)	1986 (000)	1987 (000)	1988 (000)	1989 (000)	1990 (000)
All Industries	35.3	35.2	40.3	42.6	46	47	47.9	48.6	46.5	56.3
Agriculture	....	3.4	5.0	4.5	5.2	4.4	3.8	4.0	3.3	3.6
Other Primary Ind.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Manufacturing	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Construction	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Transport/Communication/Utility	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Trade	8.1	6.9	8.5	7.7	7.5	9.0	8.1	8.6	6.6	10.2
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Service	22.3	22.5	23.6	27.1	30.2	30.6	33.3	31.7	32.7	38.7
Total Goods Producing Industries	4.3	5.0	6.4	6.4	7.1	6.0	4.8	6.4	5.7	5.7
Total Service Producing Industries	31.0	30.2	33.9	36.3	38.9	41.0	43.1	42.2	40.9	50.5

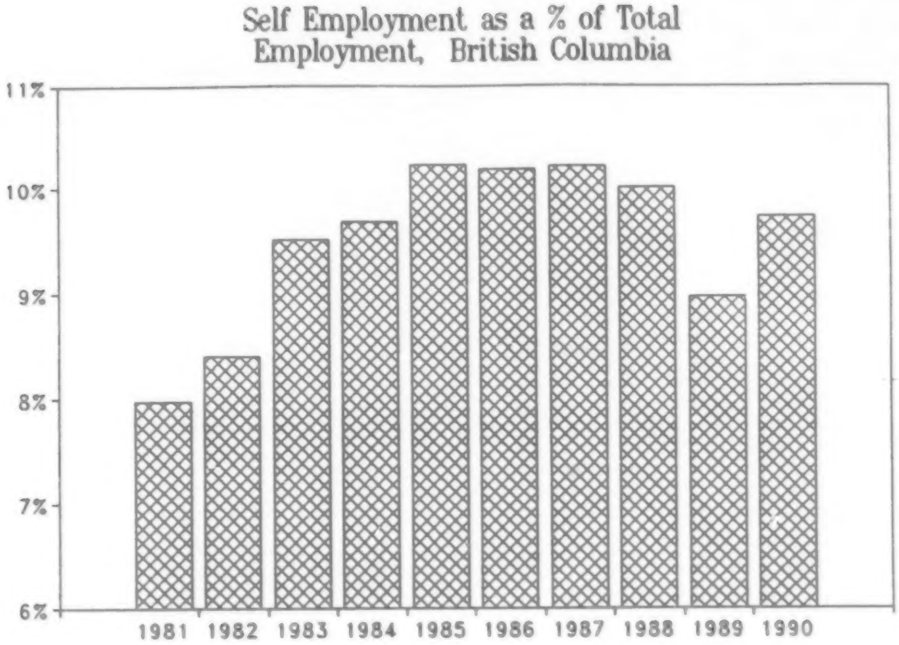
Figure 3.16



Self Employment: 1981 - 1990
British Columbia, Males and Females

Year	Male Self Employed (000)	Female Self Employed (000)
1981	66.0	35.3
1982	65.7	35.2
1983	72.9	40.3
1984	72.8	42.6
1985	78.9	46.0
1986	82.4	47.0
1987	85.5	47.9
1988	87.4	48.6
1989	82.1	46.5
1990	86.7	56.3

Figure 3.17



Self Employment as a % of Total Employment, British Columbia

Self Employed Portion of the Labour Force: 1981 - 1990
British Columbia

Year	Self Employed (000)	Total Employed (000)	Percent of Total Employed
1981	101.3	1270	7.98%
1982	101.0	1202	8.40%
1983	113.2	1190	9.51%
1984	115.4	1191	9.69%
1985	124.8	1220	10.23%
1986	129.4	1270	10.19%
1987	133.4	1306	10.21%
1988	136.0	1358	10.01%
1989	128.6	1435	8.96%
1990	143.0	1469	9.73%

Table 3.6

Businesses by Employment Size Groups: 1978 - 1987
B.C. Total Employment and Payrolls, Both Sexes
All Industries

Year	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
All Sizes											
Businesses	85981	90771	96395	102706	102460	106279	108919	113316	118010	123132	127939
Payroll ($Mil.)	14551	16989	20001	23158	23841	24289	24863	26022	27205	29751	32622
Employment	1000300	1086700	1152100	1202500	1127500	1087300	1094400	1110700	1170000	1219900	1316200
Employment Indexed to 1978	1	1.09	1.15	1.20	1.13	1.09	1.09	1.11	1.17	1.22	1.32
Less Than 5 ALU's *											
Businesses	62762	65213	69770	75044	76437	80337	82428	85935	87949	90812	94888
Payroll ($Mil.)	1133	1273	1527	1815	1905	2011	2075	2216	2346	2522	3221
Employment	85600	87500	93400	99800	98700	102200	105400	108400	113600	118500	146600
Employment Indexed to 1978	1	1.02	1.09	1.17	1.15	1.19	1.23	1.27	1.33	1.38	1.71
5 - 19.9 ALU's											
Businesses	14783	16513	17294	18324	17183	17441	17877	18510	20385	21943	22540
Payroll ($Mil.)	1598	1843	2186	2594	2563	2685	2807	3007	3336	3703	4248
Employment	129800	138900	147300	158000	146300	147600	151300	156200	172200	185500	204900
Employment Indexed to 1978	1	1.07	1.13	1.22	1.13	1.14	1.17	1.20	1.33	1.43	1.58
20+ ALU's											
Businesses	8436	9045	9331	9338	8840	8501	8614	8871	9676	10377	10511
Payroll ($Mil.)	11820	13873	16288	18749	19373	19593	19981	20799	21523	23527	25152
Employment	784900	860300	911400	944700	882500	837500	837700	846100	884200	916000	964600
Employment Indexed to 1978	1	1.10	1.16	1.20	1.12	1.07	1.07	1.08	1.13	1.17	1.23

* ALU's are Average Labour Units, calculated by dividing annual payroll (as reported to Revenue Canada through the T4 system) for each province a business operates in by an estimate of average annual earnings derived from Statistics Canada's Labour Division, Survey of Employment, Payrolls, and Hours (SEPH) for the same three-digit industry and province.

Table 3.7

Percent Change in Business Employment Size Groups: 1978 - 1987
B.C. Total Employment and Payrolls, Both Sexes
All Industries

	% Change from 1978-1979	% Change from 1979-1980	% Change from 1980-1981	% Change from 1981-1982	% Change from 1982-1983	% Change from 1983-1984	% Change from 1984-1985	% Change from 1985-1986	% Change from 1986-1987	% Change from 1987-1988
All Sizes										
Businesses	5.6%	6.2%	6.5%	-0.2%	3.7%	2.5%	4.0%	4.1%	4.3%	3.9%
Payroll ($Mil.)	16.8%	17.7%	15.8%	2.9%	1.9%	2.4%	4.7%	4.5%	9.4%	9.7%
Employment	8.6%	6.0%	4.4%	-6.2%	-3.6%	0.7%	1.5%	5.3%	4.3%	7.9%
Less Than 5 ALU's *										
Businesses	3.9%	7.0%	7.6%	1.9%	5.1%	2.6%	4.3%	2.3%	3.3%	4.5%
Payroll ($Mil.)	12.4%	20.0%	18.9%	5.0%	5.6%	3.2%	6.8%	5.9%	7.5%	27.7%
Employment	2.2%	6.7%	6.9%	-1.1%	3.5%	3.1%	2.8%	4.8%	4.3%	23.7%
5 - 19.9 ALU's										
Businesses	11.7%	4.7%	6.0%	-6.2%	1.5%	2.5%	3.5%	10.1%	7.6%	2.7%
Payroll ($Mil.)	15.3%	18.6%	18.7%	-1.2%	4.8%	4.5%	7.1%	10.9%	11.0%	14.7%
Employment	7.0%	6.0%	7.3%	-7.4%	0.9%	2.5%	3.2%	10.2%	7.7%	10.5%
20+ ALU's										
Businesses	7.2%	3.2%	0.1%	-5.3%	-3.8%	1.3%	3.0%	9.1%	7.2%	1.3%
Payroll ($Mil.)	17.4%	17.4%	15.1%	3.3%	1.1%	2.0%	4.1%	3.5%	9.3%	6.9%
Employment	9.6%	5.9%	3.7%	-6.6%	-5.1%	0.0%	1.0%	4.5%	3.6%	5.3%

* ALU's are Average Labour Units, calculated by dividing annual payroll (as reported to Revenue Canada through the T4 system) for each province a business operates in by an estimate of average annual earnings derived from Statistics Canada's Labour Division, Survey of Employment, Payrolls, and Hours (SEPH) for the same three-digit industry and province.

Figure 3.18

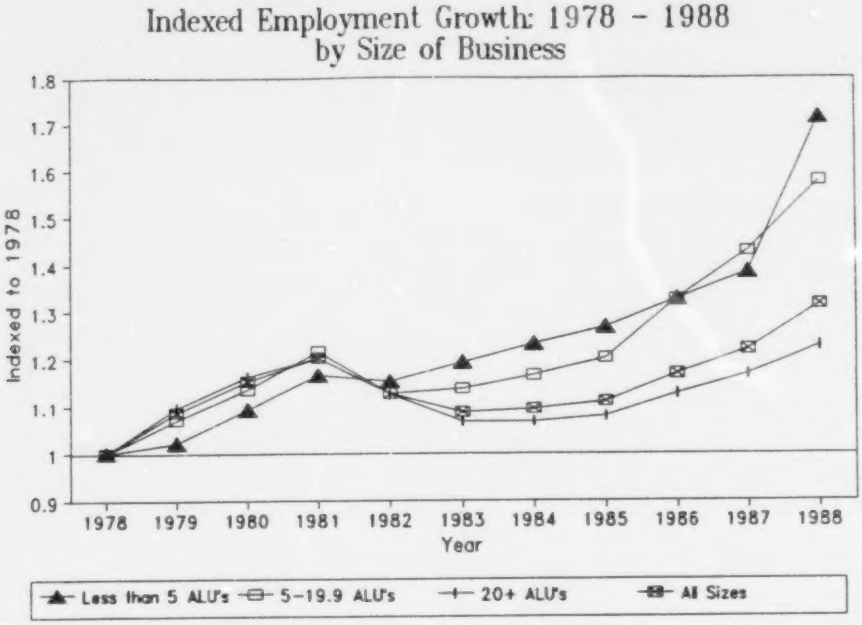
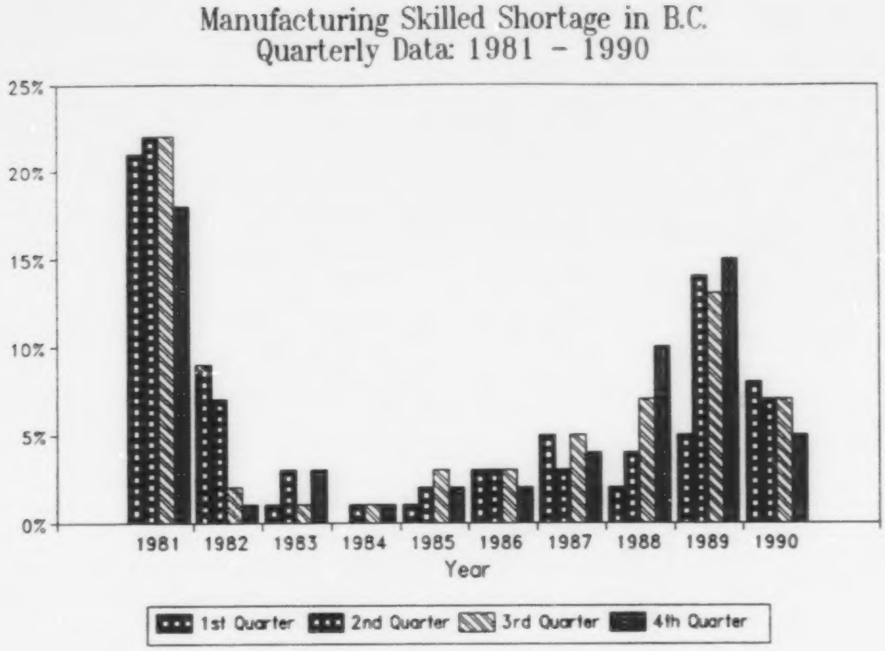

Indexed Employment Growth: 1978 - 1988
by Size of Business
Indexed to 1978
1.8
1.7
1.6
1.5
1.4
1.3
1.2
1.1
1
0.9
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
Year
Less than 5 ALU's
5-19.9 ALU's
20+ ALU's
All Sizes

Figure 3.19



Manufacturing Employers Indicating Skilled Worker Shortages*
B.C., Both Sexes

Year	1st Quarter (%)	2nd Quarter (%)	3rd Quarter (%)	4th Quarter (%)
1981	21%	22%	22%	18%
1982	9%	7%	2%	1%
1983	1%	3%	1%	3%
1984	0%	1%	1%	1%
1985	1%	2%	3%	2%
1986	3%	3%	3%	2%
1987	5%	3%	5%	4%
1988	2%	4%	7%	10%
1989	5%	14%	13%	15%
1990	8%	7%	7%	5%

* The Data reported reflects the percentage of manufacturing employers in B.C. indicating production difficulties due to skill shortages.

4. UNEMPLOYMENT

Level of Unemployment in British Columbia

In 1975 the number of unemployed people in British Columbia averaged 92,000. The number of unemployed was lowest in 1980, at 88,000 and highest in 1984, at 206,000. In 1990, the number of unemployed people in British Columbia averaged 132,000. (See **Table 4.1.**)

Rates of Unemployment in British Columbia, Ontario and the Rest of Canada

As **Figure 4.1** shows, unemployment rates in British Columbia were in the range of 6.5% to 8.5% from 1975 to 1981. In those years the unemployment rate in British Columbia was never more than about 2.5 percentage points above the rate in Ontario. During the recession of 1981 to 1985, the unemployment rate in British Columbia increased to 14.7% and was as much as six percentage points above the rate in Ontario.

In 1990 the unemployment rate averaged 8.2% in British Columbia. In Ontario it averaged 6.3% in 1990 and in the rest of Canada, 9.5%.

Changes in the Number of Unemployed People in British Columbia, Ontario and the Rest of Canada

As **Figure 4.2** shows, the number of employed people in British Columbia grew by 25% from 1976 to 1981 and in that period of quite strong employment growth, the number of unemployed people in British Columbia fell by about 5%. British Columbia was the only region in Canada in which there was a decline in the number of unemployed people from 1976 to 1981.

In the ten years from 1981 to 1990 inclusive employment in British Columbia increased by about 15%, while the number of unemployed people increased by 45%. Growth in the number of unemployed people exceeded growth in the number of employed people in British Columbia, the prairie provinces and in Atlantic Canada. In Ontario and Quebec employment growth slightly exceeded growth in the number of unemployed people.

As **Figure 4.3** shows, increases in the numbers of unemployed people in British Columbia from 1975 to 1990 occurred among both females and males over age 25, while the number of unemployed young people actually declined slightly.

Unemployment Rates by Age and Sex

As **Table 4.2** shows, unemployment rates typically have been much higher among people in the 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 year age groups than they have been in older age groups. It is also the case that in the years 1982 to 1986, when employment was much affected by the last recession, unemployment rates were much higher among young men than they were among young women.

Prior to the last recession those in all age groups over age 25 had unemployment rates which were below the average rate for all age groups. Since 1986 unemployment rates among those aged 25 to 34 have continued at above average levels, and there appears to have been some increase in the relative level of risk of unemployment among people in the 55 to 64 year age range.

Unemployment by Education

In 1975, when the overall rate of unemployment in British Columbia was 8.5%, the unemployment rate of university graduates was less than one-half of the average rate. For those with less than 8 years of schooling, the unemployment rate was 1.3 times the average rate. In 1981, the relationships between unemployment rates for various educational attainment groups were not much changed from 1975.

In 1989, the unemployment rate for people with university degrees continued to be well below average. However, the disadvantage associated with limited education had increased. The unemployment rate of those with less than 8 years of schooling was 1.86 times the overall average rate in 1989. (See **Figure 4.4** and **Table 4.3**.)

Figure 4.5 shows unemployment rates by educational attainment, indexed to their values in 1981. The year 1981 was selected because it was at or near the minimum rate of unemployment observed in each educational attainment group in the period 1975 to 1990.

Duration of Unemployment

In the years 1976 to 1981, the average duration of unemployment was in the range of 11 to 15 weeks, with little difference between the average durations of unemployment of men and women. The average duration of unemployment increased during the recession of 1981 to 1985, reaching a peak of 27.4 weeks for men and a peak of 22.5 weeks for women in 1985. With the economic recovery the average duration of unemployment declined. In 1990 it was 16.7 weeks among males and 15.4 weeks among females. (See **Figure 4.6**.)

In 1981 there were few people who had been unemployed for six months or more. By 1985, there were 63,000 people who had been unemployed for more than six months and of these, 29,000 had been unemployed for more than a year. By 1990 the number of people unemployed for more than six months had fallen to 19,000. Only 5,000 had been unemployed for over a year in 1990. (See **Table 4.4**.)

Table 4.5 shows long-term unemployment rates compared to overall unemployment rates. In the first column of **Table 4.5** the long-term unemployment is the proportion of the labour force which reported having been unemployed for 27 weeks or more. In the second column, it is the proportion of the labour force which reported having been unemployed for 53 weeks or more. The last column is the overall unemployment rate.

In **Table 4.6** long-term unemployment rates (in this instance, those unemployed for 27 weeks or more) are shown for three age groups - those aged 15 to 24, those aged 25 to 44 and those aged 45 years or over. Excluding recessionary years, long-term unemployment rates among young people tend to be similar to the long-term rates of people in the prime working age groups, even though the overall unemployment rates among young people are much higher. Among those over age 45 long-term unemployment rates tend to be higher than are those of people aged 25 to 44, even though their overall unemployment rates tend to be somewhat lower.

In **Figures 4.7** to **4.11**, long-term unemployment rates are plotted against overall rates of unemployment. The general shape of the relationship between overall and long-term unemployment rates in the figures demonstrates that the two tend to move together through economic cycles and that there has been no strong shift toward more long-term unemployment. However, this observation is tempered by the fact that people leaving their jobs, with no apparent prospect for re-employment, may withdraw from the work force and not be counted among the unemployed. As **Figure 2.12** in **Section 2** indicates, this appears to have occurred among older male workers who lost their jobs in the last recession.

Underemployment

As **Figures 4.12** and **4.13** show, when unemployment increased in British Columbia in the years 1982 to 1985, there was also an increase in the number of people who were working part-time but who would have worked full-time if they could have found full-time work. People working part-time involuntarily have been described as the "underemployed". A comparison of **Figures 4.12** and **4.13** will show that in the last recession, underemployment increased more among women than among men, while the opposite was true for unemployment.

Unemployment and Income Assistance

In 1982, the number of British Columbians receiving income assistance averaged 70,441. This was 3.3% of the population aged 15 to 64. (See **Figure 4.14**.) In that year about 34.5% of all income assistance recipients had been receiving financial aid from the province for more than 12 months.

In 1985 the number of income assistance recipients averaged 125,543, an increase of over 55,000 from 1982. The number who had been receiving social assistance for more than a year increased from 24,300 in 1982 to 63,200 in 1985, or by almost 39,000. Those who had been on social assistance for more than a year accounted for over 50% of all recipients in that year. In 1985 social assistance recipients made up 5.7% of the population aged 15 to 64.

In 1990 the average number of income assistance recipients was 99,557, about 4.1% of the population aged 15 to 64. In 1990 about 46,300, or 46.5% of all social assistance recipients had been receiving aid for more than a year.

Table 4.1.1

Unemployment Levels by Age and Sex: 1975 - 1990
British Columbia, Both Sexes

Year	15-19 Years (000)	20-24 Years (000)	25-34 Years (000)	35-44 Years (000)	45-54 Years (000)	55-64 Years (000)	Total (000)
1975	22	19	22	12	10	6	92
1976	24	20	21	12	11	4	96
1977	25	21	22	11	11	4	97
1978	22	21	23	13	12	4	99
1979	23	19	23	12	9	5	95
1980	21	18	22	11	9	6	88
1981	22	18	25	14	8	4	92
1982	33	36	44	24	17	12	165
1983	30	43	55	30	20	12	191
1984	25	42	65	35	23	15	206
1985	25	38	60	39	23	16	201
1986	26	33	53	34	21	14	181
1987	22	33	49	37	21	14	176
1988	20	26	45	31	20	14	157
1989	20	21	38	31	19	14	143
1990	18	21	40	29	15	9	132

Table 4.1.2

Unemployment Levels by Age and Sex: 1975 - 1990
British Columbia, Males

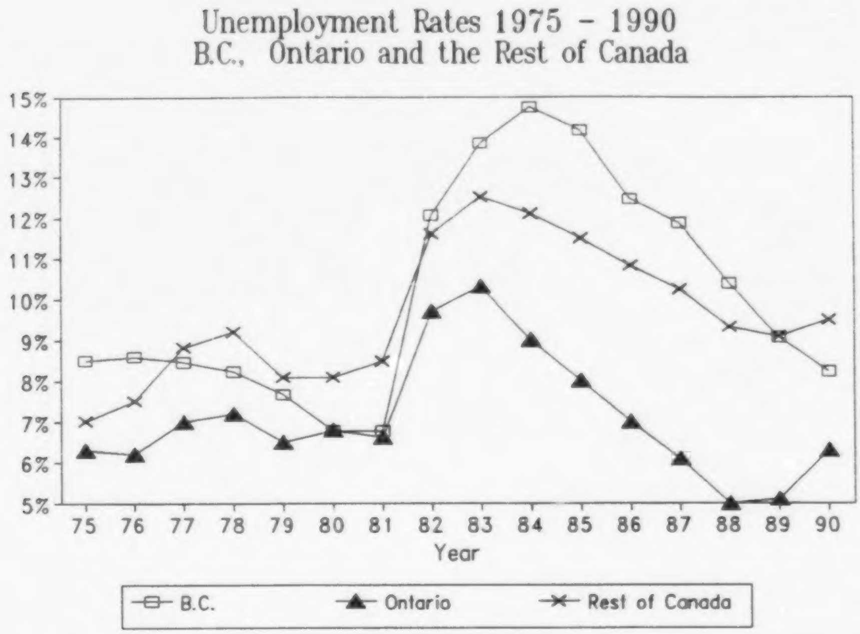
Year	15-19 Years (000)	20-24 Years (000)	25-34 Years (000)	35-44 Years (000)	45-54 Years (000)	55-64 Years (000)	Total (000)
1975	13	12	11	7	7	4	54
1976	13	11	11	5	6	4	52
1977	14	11	12	5	6	4	52
1978	12	12	11	6	7	4	53
1979	13	10	11	6	4	5	49
1980	12	10	10	5	4	....	44
1981	12	10	12	7	4	4	49
1982	20	22	26	12	11	8	99
1983	18	28	33	17	13	8	117
1984	14	26	38	20	15	11	125
1985	14	22	33	21	14	11	116
1986	15	19	29	16	12	9	101
1987	12	19	26	19	11	9	96
1988	11	14	24	14	10	10	83
1989	12	12	17	16	9	9	76
1990	10	11	21	16	8	6	72

Table 4.1.3

Unemployment Levels by Age and Sex: 1975 - 1990
British Columbia, Females

Year	15-19 Years (000)	20-24 Years (000)	25-34 Years (000)	35-44 Years (000)	45-54 Years (000)	55-64 Years (000)	Total (000)
1975	9	8	10	5	4	....	38
1976	11	9	10	7	5	....	44
1977	11	10	10	6	5	....	45
1978	10	9	12	7	5	....	46
1979	10	9	12	6	5	....	46
1980	9	8	13	6	5	....	44
1981	10	8	13	7	4	....	43
1982	13	14	18	12	6	4	66
1983	12	15	22	13	7	4	74
1984	11	16	27	15	8	4	81
1985	11	16	27	18	9	5	85
1986	11	14	24	18	9	5	80
1987	10	14	23	18	10	5	80
1988	9	12	21	17	10	4	74
1989	8	9	21	15	10	5	67
1990	7	10	19	14	7	....	60

Figure 4.1



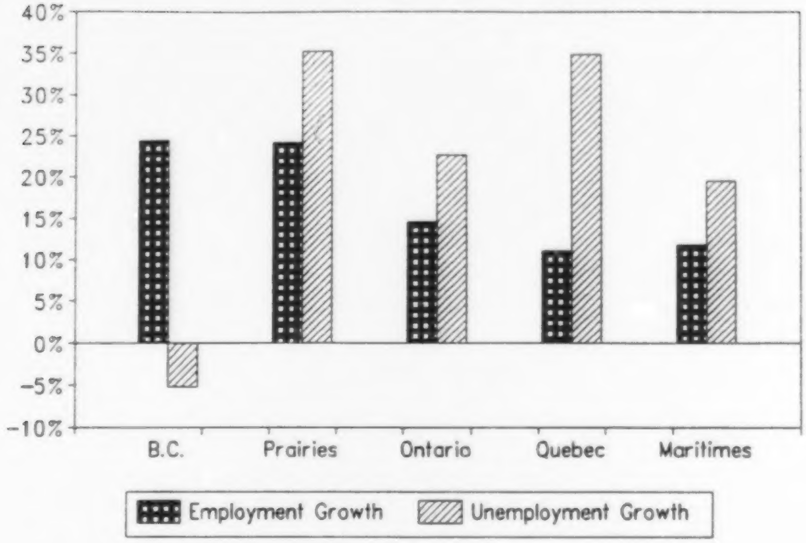
Unemployment Rates: 1975 - 1990
B.C., Ontario and the Rest of Canada *

Year	B.C. Unemployment Rate	Ontario Unemployment Rate	Rest of Canada Unemployment Rate
1975	8.5%	6.3%	7.0%
1976	8.6%	6.2%	7.5%
1977	8.5%	7.0%	8.8%
1978	8.2%	7.2%	9.2%
1979	7.7%	6.5%	8.1%
1980	6.8%	6.8%	8.1%
1981	6.8%	6.6%	8.5%
1982	12.1%	9.7%	11.6%
1983	13.8%	10.3%	12.5%
1984	14.7%	9.0%	12.1%
1985	14.2%	8.0%	11.5%
1986	12.5%	7.0%	10.8%
1987	11.9%	6.1%	10.2%
1988	10.4%	5.0%	9.3%
1989	9.1%	5.1%	9.1%
1990	8.2%	6.3%	9.5%

* Rest of Canada Excludes B.C. and Ontario

Figure 4.2

Regional Employment and Unemployment
Growth Rates 1976 - 1981



Regional Employment and Unemployment
Growth Rates 1981 - 1990

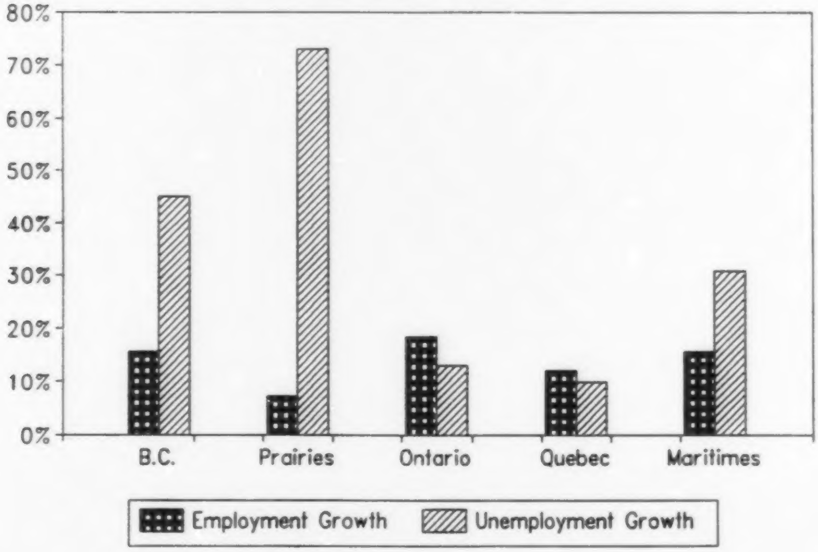


Figure 4.3

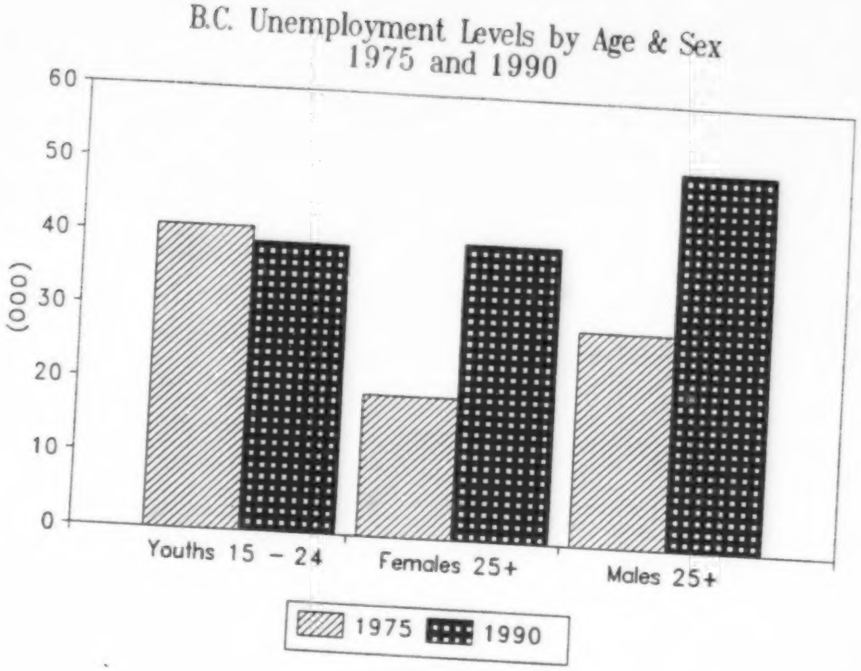

B.C. Unemployment Levels by Age & Sex
1975 and 1990
(000)
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Youths 15 - 24
Females 25+
Males 25+
1975
1990

Table 4.2.1

Unemployment Rate by Age and Sex: 1975 - 1990
British Columbia, Both Sexes

Year	15-19 Years (%)	20-24 Years (000)	25-34 Years (000)	35-44 Years (000)	45-54 Years (000)	55-64 Years (000)	Average (%)
1975	17.4%	11.9%	7.8%	5.6%	5.6%	5.5%	8.5%
1976	19.0%	12.2%	7.2%	5.9%	5.6%	6.0%	8.6%
1977	18.7%	12.4%	7.4%	5.2%	6.1%	5.8%	8.5%
1978	17.0%	12.3%	7.3%	5.6%	5.7%	5.5%	8.3%
1979	17.1%	10.2%	6.8%	4.9%	5.0%	5.9%	7.6%
1980	14.8%	9.4%	6.2%	4.2%	4.6%	4.6%	6.8%
1981	14.9%	9.0%	6.3%	5.0%	4.0%	3.9%	6.7%
1982	25.1%	18.7%	11.2%	8.2%	8.1%	8.9%	12.1%
1983	24.9%	22.5%	14.1%	9.5%	9.3%	9.0%	13.8%
1984	23.1%	22.3%	16.2%	10.6%	10.5%	11.1%	14.7%
1985	22.5%	20.2%	14.7%	11.3%	10.2%	12.2%	14.1%
1986	21.5%	18.4%	12.9%	9.6%	9.0%	10.1%	12.5%
1987	18.5%	18.4%	11.7%	9.9%	8.6%	10.5%	11.9%
1988	16.1%	15.1%	10.7%	7.9%	8.2%	10.1%	10.3%
1989	15.1%	11.8%	8.8%	7.5%	7.2%	9.8%	9.1%
1990	14.5%	12.0%	9.0%	6.8%	5.3%	6.9%	8.3%

Table 4.2.2

Unemployment Rate by Age and Sex: 1975 - 1990
British Columbia, Males

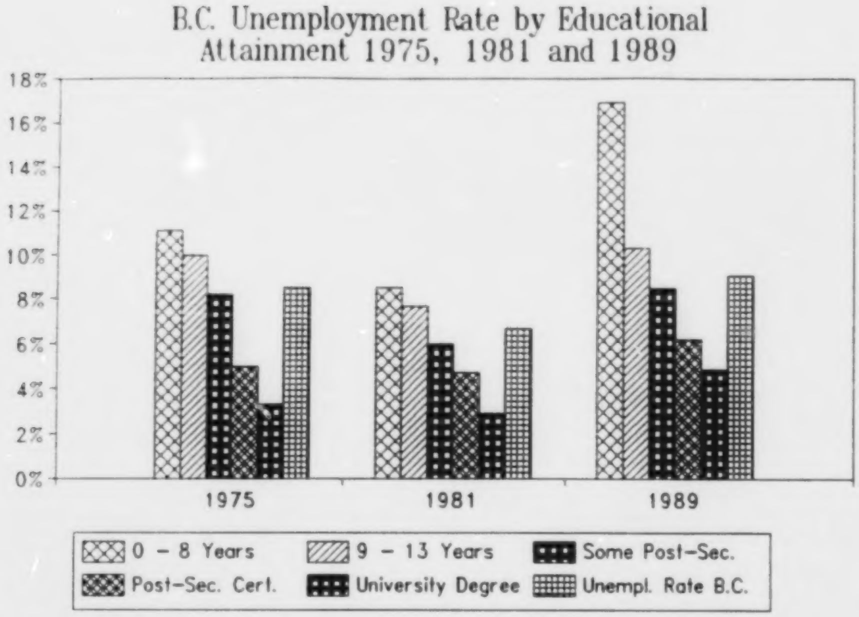
Year	15-19 Years (%)	20-24 Years (000)	25-34 Years (000)	35-44 Years (000)	45-54 Years (000)	55-64 Years (000)	Average (%)
1975	19.5%	12.9%	6.4%	5.0%	5.5%	5.1%	8.0%
1976	19.0%	12.3%	5.8%	4.0%	5.0%	5.7%	7.4%
1977	19.7%	11.3%	6.3%	3.5%	5.0%	5.5%	7.3%
1978	17.6%	13.0%	5.7%	4.4%	5.3%	4.8%	7.3%
1979	17.9%	10.0%	5.4%	3.7%	3.5%	5.6%	6.5%
1980	16.3%	9.3%	4.4%	3.1%	3.2%	....	5.6%
1981	16.0%	9.3%	5.1%	4.1%	3.3%	4.2%	6.0%
1982	29.3%	21.2%	11.4%	7.1%	8.6%	9.2%	12.4%
1983	29.0%	26.8%	14.7%	9.1%	10.0%	9.0%	14.5%
1984	24.4%	26.0%	16.5%	10.6%	11.4%	12.5%	15.4%
1985	25.4%	22.4%	14.5%	10.6%	10.4%	12.7%	14.2%
1986	24.7%	20.0%	12.8%	8.1%	8.5%	10.4%	12.2%
1987	19.9%	19.8%	11.1%	8.9%	7.5%	11.0%	11.4%
1988	17.0%	15.8%	10.2%	6.4%	7.3%	10.8%	9.8%
1989	17.1%	13.4%	7.2%	7.1%	6.2%	10.0%	8.7%
1990	17.1%	12.5%	8.8%	6.6%	5.0%	6.9%	8.2%

Table 4.2.3

Unemployment Rate by Age and Sex: 1975 - 1990
British Columbia, Females

Year	15-19 Years (%)	20-24 Years (000)	25-34 Years (000)	35-44 Years (000)	45-54 Years (000)	55-64 Years (000)	Average (%)
1975	15.1%	10.8%	10.3%	6.8%	5.8%	....	9.4%
1976	19.0%	12.0%	9.5%	9.3%	6.6%	....	10.5%
1977	17.5%	13.7%	9.2%	8.1%	8.3%	....	10.5%
1978	16.3%	11.6%	9.8%	7.5%	6.5%	....	9.7%
1979	16.1%	10.4%	9.0%	7.0%	7.7%	....	9.3%
1980	13.1%	9.6%	9.0%	5.9%	7.1%	....	8.5%
1981	13.6%	8.7%	8.1%	6.3%	5.2%	....	7.7%
1982	20.5%	15.7%	10.9%	9.8%	7.4%	8.5%	11.7%
1983	20.5%	17.5%	13.3%	10.2%	8.3%	8.8%	12.8%
1984	21.8%	18.1%	15.6%	10.6%	9.3%	8.6%	13.8%
1985	19.5%	17.8%	15.1%	12.1%	9.8%	11.3%	14.0%
1986	18.1%	16.6%	13.2%	11.6%	9.8%	9.6%	12.8%
1987	17.0%	16.9%	12.4%	11.3%	10.3%	9.6%	12.5%
1988	15.1%	14.4%	11.4%	9.7%	9.5%	8.7%	11.1%
1989	12.9%	10.0%	10.7%	8.0%	8.5%	9.5%	9.6%
1990	11.9%	11.6%	9.3%	7.1%	5.8%	....	8.4%

Figure 4.4



Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment: 1975 - 1989
British Columbia

	1975 (%)	1981 (%)	1989 (%)
University Degree	3.3%	2.9%	4.9%
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	5.0%	4.7%	6.2%
Some Post-Secondary	8.2%	6.0%	8.5%
9 - 13 Years	10.0%	7.7%	10.3%
0 - 8 Years	11.1%	8.5%	16.9%
Total Unemployment	8.5%	6.7%	9.1%

Table 4.3

Indexed Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment: 1975 - 1990
Indexed to 1981
B.C., Both Sexes

Year	0-8 Years Rate (%)	Index	9-13 Years Rate (%)	Index	Some Post-Secondary Rate (%)	Index	Post-Secondary Certificate Rate (%)	Index	University Degree Rate (%)	Index	Total Unemployment Rate (%)	Index
1975	11.1	1.31	10.0	1.30	8.2	1.37	5.0	1.06	3.3	1.14	8.5	1.27
1976	9.9	1.16	9.9	1.29	7.1	1.18	6.5	1.38	4.1	1.41	8.6	1.28
1977	10.2	1.20	10.1	1.31	7.4	1.23	5.5	1.17	3.4	1.17	8.5	1.27
1978	9.8	1.15	9.3	1.21	7.9	1.32	5.8	1.23	4.0	1.38	8.3	1.24
1979	8.9	1.05	8.8	1.14	6.3	1.05	5.1	1.09	4.3	1.48	7.6	1.13
1980	8.9	1.05	7.6	0.99	5.7	0.95	4.4	0.94	3.9	1.34	6.8	1.01
1981	8.5	1.00	7.7	1.00	6.0	1.00	4.7	1.00	2.9	1.00	6.7	1.00
1982	16.0	1.88	14.2	1.84	9.8	1.63	8.5	1.81	5.7	1.97	12.1	1.81
1983	15.2	1.79	15.8	2.05	14.0	2.33	10.7	2.28	6.5	2.24	13.8	2.06
1984	18.7	2.20	16.7	2.17	14.3	2.38	11.7	2.49	7.4	2.55	14.7	2.19
1985	20.2	2.38	15.8	2.05	13.7	2.28	10.5	2.23	7.7	2.66	14.1	2.10
1986	17.7	2.08	14.9	1.94	10.5	1.75	8.8	1.87	6.0	2.07	12.5	1.87
1987	17.7	2.08	14.2	1.84	10.8	1.80	7.6	1.62	5.8	2.00	11.9	1.78
1988	13.9	1.64	12.3	1.60	9.3	1.55	8.1	1.72	4.8	1.66	10.3	1.54
1989	16.9	1.99	10.3	1.34	8.5	1.42	6.2	1.32	4.9	1.69	9.1	1.36
1990 *	11.4	1.34	10.1	1.31	8.6	1.43	6.4	1.36	4.2	1.45	8.3	1.24

*In 1990 changes made to Educational Attainment questions meant that the highest level of education was recorded rather than the number of years spent in school. As well, the post-secondary classification was expanded to include any education which could be counted towards a degree, certificate or diploma.

Figure 4.5

Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment: 1975 - 90 Indexed to 1981

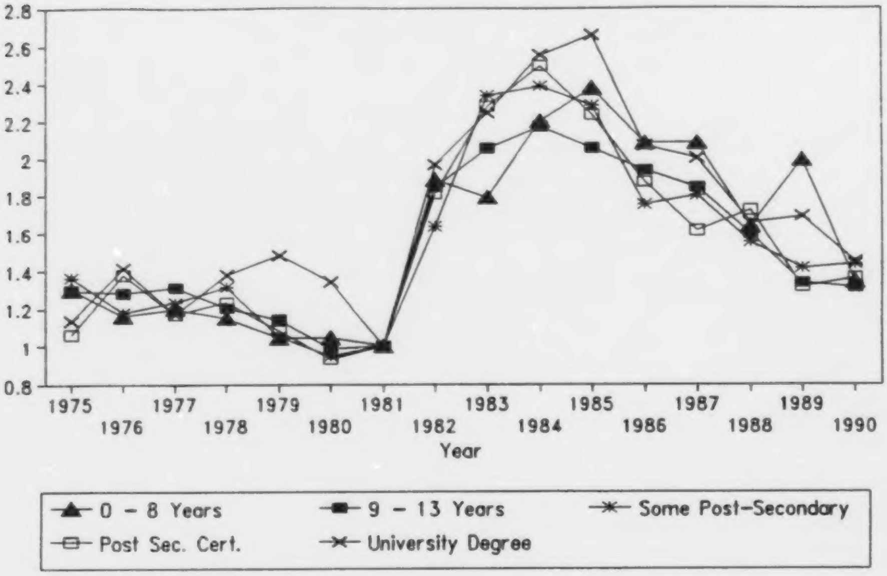
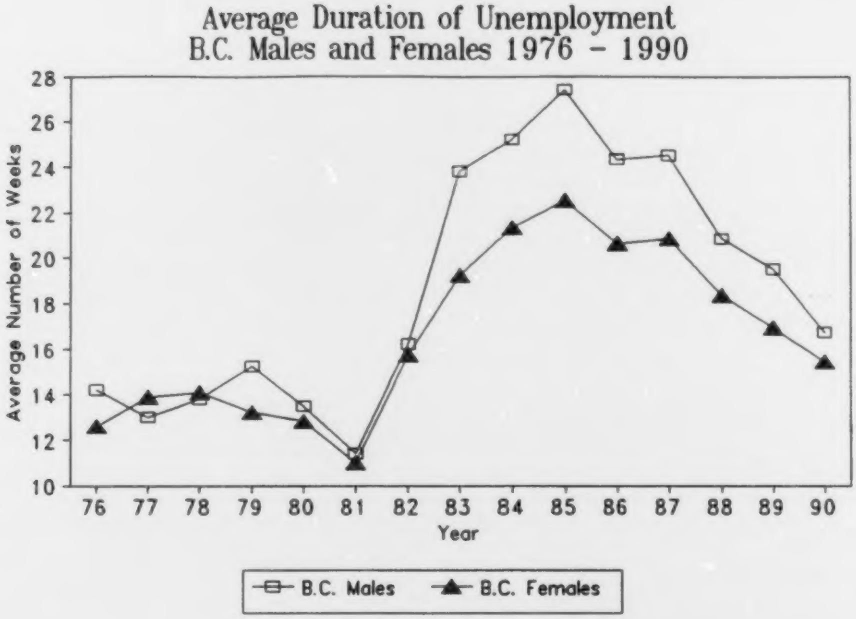


Figure 4.6



Average Duration of Unemployment
B.C. Males and Females 1976 - 1990

Duration Of Unemployment: 1976 - 1990
B.C. Males and Females

Average Duration in Weeks

Year	Males	Females
1976	14.2	12.6
1977	13.0	13.9
1978	13.8	14.1
1979	15.2	13.2
1980	13.5	12.8
1981	11.4	11.0
1982	16.2	15.7
1983	23.8	19.2
1984	25.2	21.3
1985	27.4	22.5
1986	24.3	20.6
1987	24.5	20.8
1988	20.8	18.3
1989	19.5	16.9
1990	16.7	15.4

Table 4.4.1

Duration Of Unemployment as a Percent of Total Unemployed: 1976 - 1990
B.C. Males

Year	4 Weeks or Less (%)	5 - 13 Weeks (%)	14 Weeks & Over (%)	Total Unemployed (000)
1976	32.7%	28.8%	34.6%	52
1977	34.6%	30.8%	30.8%	52
1978	32.1%	30.2%	34.0%	53
1979	32.7%	30.6%	34.7%	49
1980	36.4%	29.5%	29.5%	44

	4 Weeks or Less (%)	5 - 13 Weeks (%)	14 - 26 Weeks (%)	27 - 52 Weeks (%)	53 Weeks & Over (%)	Total Unemployed (000)
1981	38.8%	32.7%	14.3%	8.2%	....	49
1982	28.3%	31.3%	21.2%	15.2%	4.0%	99
1983	22.2%	23.9%	19.7%	20.5%	12.0%	117
1984	23.2%	24.8%	20.0%	16.0%	14.4%	125
1985	22.4%	25.0%	18.1%	16.4%	17.2%	116
1986	24.8%	25.7%	19.8%	14.9%	13.9%	101
1987	27.1%	25.0%	18.8%	13.5%	14.6%	96
1988	27.7%	26.5%	19.3%	13.3%	10.8%	83
1989	30.3%	27.6%	18.4%	13.2%	9.2%	76
1990	31.9%	30.6%	19.4%	9.7%	6.9%	72

Table 4.4.2

Duration Of Unemployment as a Percent of Total Unemployed: 1976 - 1990
B.C. Females

Year	4 Weeks or Less (%)	5 - 13 Weeks (%)	14 Weeks & Over (%)	Total Unemployed (000)
1976	34.1%	31.8%	31.8%	44
1977	33.3%	31.1%	33.3%	45
1978	30.4%	28.3%	34.8%	46
1979	32.6%	30.4%	30.4%	46
1980	38.6%	27.3%	29.5%	44

	4 Weeks or Less (%)	5 - 13 Weeks (%)	14 - 26 Weeks (%)	27 - 52 Weeks (%)	53 Weeks & Over (%)	Total Unemployed (000)
1981	39.5%	30.2%	16.3%	....	....	43
1982	28.8%	30.3%	21.2%	13.6%	....	66
1983	25.7%	25.7%	21.6%	17.6%	6.8%	74
1984	25.9%	25.9%	19.8%	17.3%	9.9%	81
1985	25.9%	24.7%	20.0%	17.6%	10.6%	85
1986	28.8%	26.3%	18.8%	16.3%	8.8%	80
1987	26.3%	27.5%	20.0%	16.3%	8.8%	80
1988	29.7%	27.0%	20.3%	14.9%	6.8%	74
1989	29.9%	29.9%	19.4%	13.4%	....	67
1990	33.3%	28.3%	20.0%	11.7%	....	60

Table 4.5

Long-Term and Overall Unemployment Rates: 1976 - 1990
B.C., Both Sexes

Year	Unemployment Rate 27+ Weeks	Unemployment Rate 53+ Weeks	Overall Unemployment Rate
1976	1.3%	0.4%	8.6%
1977	1.4%	0.5%	8.5%
1978	1.4%	0.5%	8.3%
1979	1.5%	0.6%	7.6%
1980	1.2%	0.5%	6.8%
1981	0.8%	0.3%	6.7%
1982	2.2%	0.4%	12.1%
1983	4.1%	1.4%	13.8%
1984	4.3%	1.9%	14.7%
1985	4.4%	2.0%	14.1%
1986	3.4%	1.4%	12.5%
1987	3.2%	1.4%	11.9%
1988	2.2%	0.9%	10.3%
1989	1.8%	0.6%	9.1%
1990	1.4%	0.4%	8.3%

Table 4.6

Long-Term and Overall Unemployment Rates: 1976 - 1990
27+ Weeks Duration, by Age Group
B.C., Both Sexes

Year	Unemployment Rate 27+ Weeks 15 - 24 Years	Overall Unemployment Rate 15 - 24 Years	Unemployment Rate 27+ Weeks 25 - 44 Years	Overall Unemployment Rate 25 - 44 Years	Unemployment Rate 27+ Weeks 45+ Years	Overall Unemployment Rate 45+ Years
1976	1.7%	15.2%	1.2%	6.6%	1.6%	5.7%
1977	1.7%	15.1%	1.0%	6.5%	1.5%	5.7%
1978	1.9%	14.3%	1.3%	6.6%	1.5%	5.5%
1979	1.6%	13.1%	1.2%	6.0%	1.2%	5.2%
1980	1.5%	11.8%	1.0%	5.4%	1.1%	4.4%
1981	0.9%	11.5%	0.9%	5.8%	....	4.0%
1982	3.1%	21.3%	2.0%	9.9%	1.9%	8.4%
1983	6.1%	23.4%	3.6%	12.1%	3.3%	9.2%
1984	5.0%	22.6%	4.1%	13.6%	4.3%	10.8%
1985	4.4%	21.1%	4.3%	13.1%	4.8%	10.9%
1986	3.7%	19.6%	3.1%	11.4%	3.7%	9.4%
1987	3.0%	18.5%	3.0%	10.9%	3.6%	9.3%
1988	2.0%	15.5%	2.2%	9.3%	2.7%	8.8%
1989	1.3%	13.2%	1.9%	8.2%	2.4%	8.1%
1990	....	13.0%	1.0%	7.9%	....	5.9%

Figure 4.7

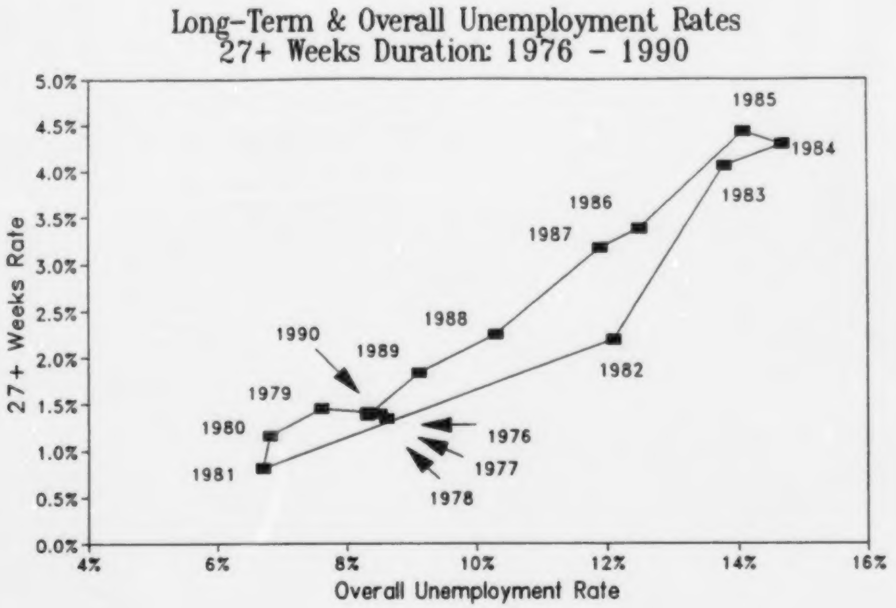
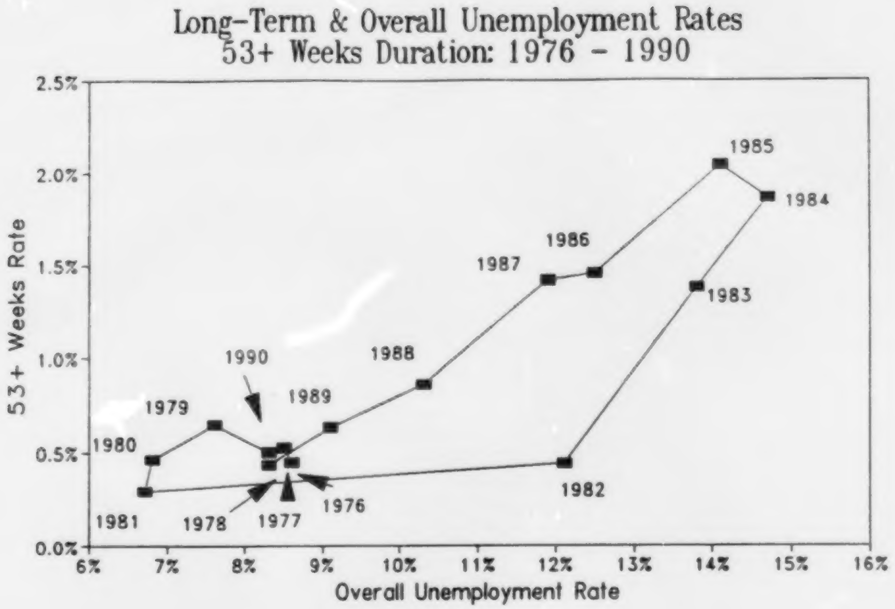

Long-Term & Overall Unemployment Rates
27+ Weeks Duration: 1976 - 1990
27 + Weeks Rate
Overall Unemployment Rate
5.0%
4.5%
4.0%
3.5%
3.0%
2.5%
2.0%
1.5%
1.0%
0.5%
0.0%
4%
6%
8%
10%
12%
14%
16%
1985
1984
1983
1986
1987
1988
1990
1989
1982
1979
1980
1976
1977
1981
1978

Figure 4.8



Long–Term & Overall Unemployment Rates
53+ Weeks Duration: 1976 - 1990

Figure 4.9

Long-Term & Overall Unemployment Rates
15 - 24 Years: 1976 - 1989

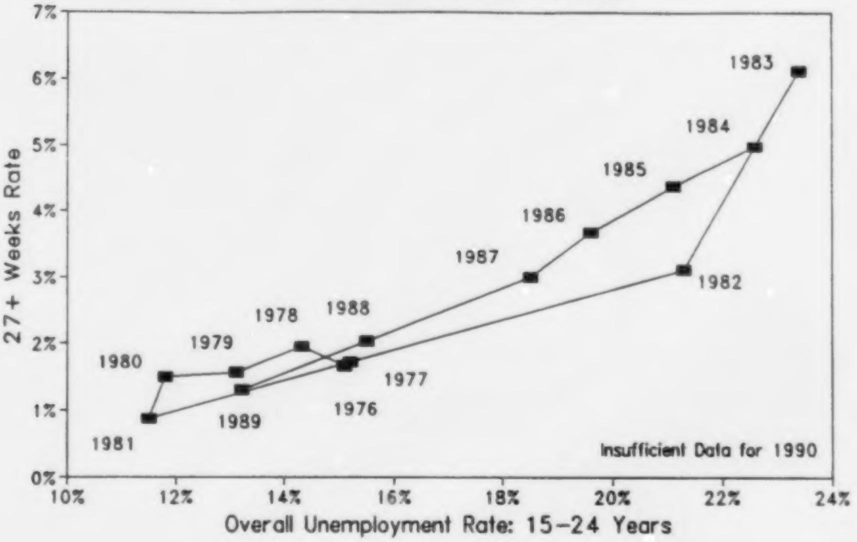


Figure 4.10

Long-Term & Overall Unemployment Rates
25 - 44 Years: 1976 - 1989

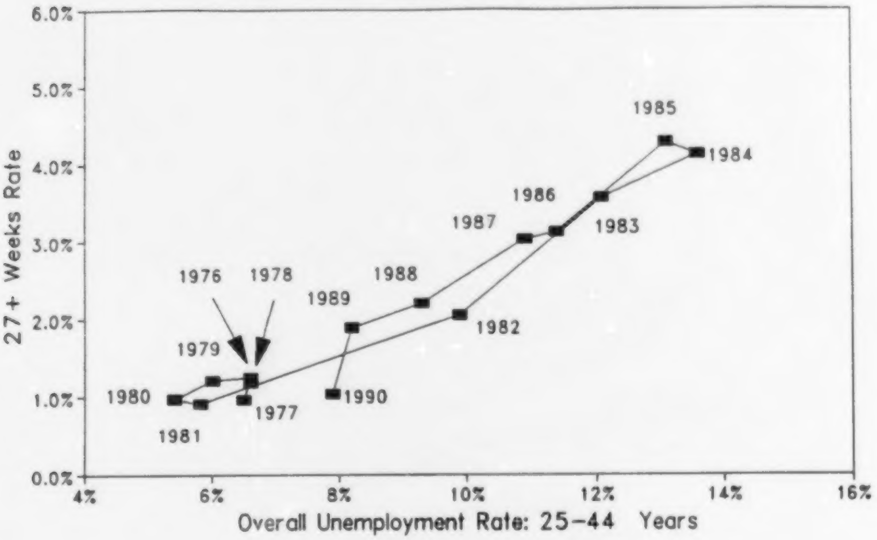


Figure 4.11

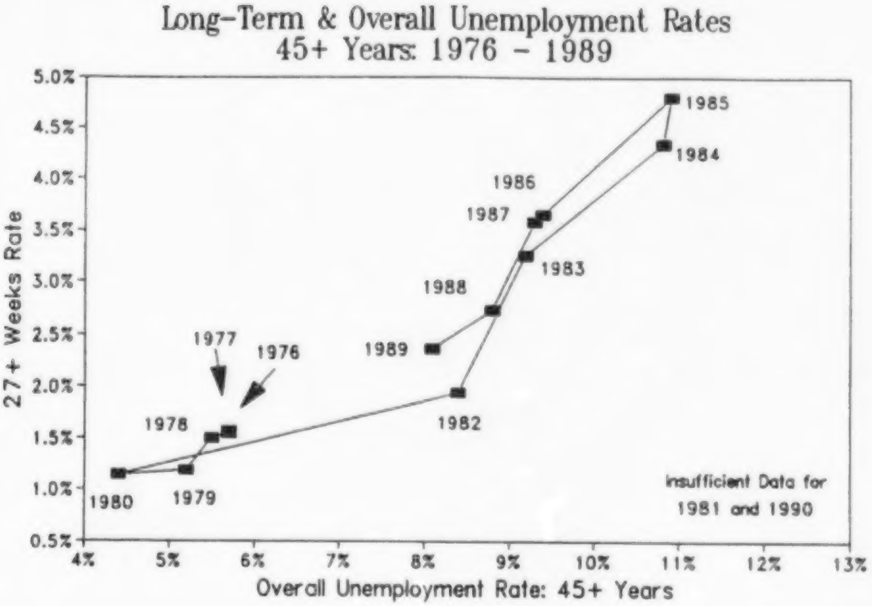
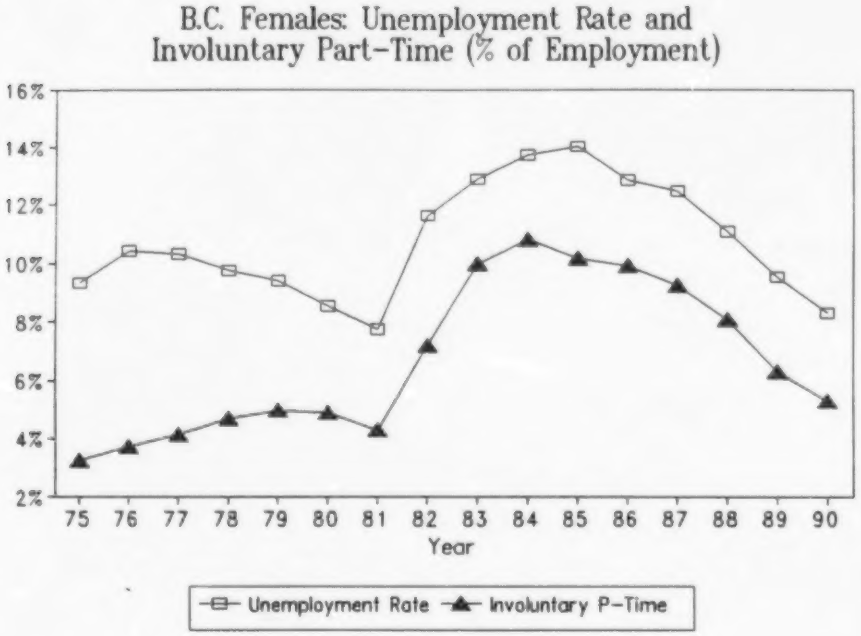

Long-Term & Overall Unemployment Rates
45+ Years: 1976 - 1989
27+ Weeks Rate
Overall Unemployment Rate: 45+ Years
5.0%
4.5%
4.0%
3.5%
3.0%
2.5%
2.0%
1.5%
1.0%
0.5%
4%
5%
6%
7%
8%
9%
10%
11%
12%
13%
1985
1984
1986
1987
1983
1988
1989
1977
1976
1978
1982
1980
1979
Insufficient Data for
1981 and 1990

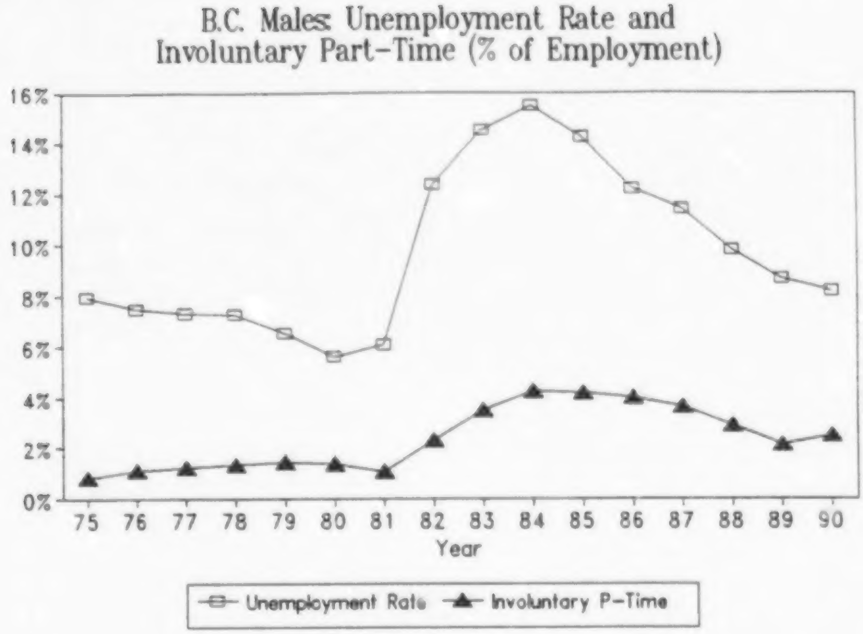
Figure 4.12



Unemployment Rates and Involuntary Part-time:1976 - 1990
British Columbia Females

Year	Employment (000)	Unemployment Rate (%)	Involuntary Part-Time (000)	Involuntary as a % of Employment (%)
1976	378	10.43%	14	3.70%
1977	389	10.34%	16	4.11%
1978	425	9.77%	20	4.71%
1979	442	9.43%	22	4.98%
1980	472	8.53%	23	4.87%
1981	512	7.75%	22	4.30%
1982	500	11.64%	36	7.20%
1983	501	12.89%	50	9.98%
1984	508	13.75%	55	10.83%
1985	521	14.03%	53	10.17%
1986	543	12.86%	54	9.94%
1987	561	12.48%	52	9.27%
1988	592	11.11%	48	8.11%
1989	633	9.56%	40	6.32%
1990	660	8.33%	35	5.30%

Figure 4.13

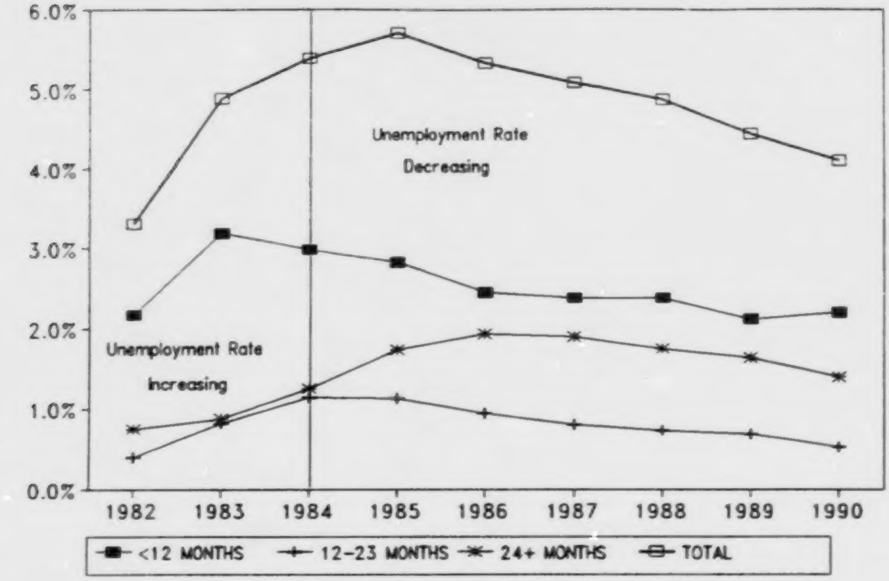


Unemployment Rates and Involuntary Part-time: 1976 - 1990
British Columbia Males

Year	Employment (000)	Unemployment Rate (%)	Involuntary Part-Time (000)	Involuntary as a % of Employment (%)
1976	643	7.49%	7	1.09%
1977	661	7.29%	8	1.21%
1978	677	7.25%	9	1.33%
1979	702	6.52%	10	1.42%
1980	740	5.61%	10	1.35%
1981	757	6.08%	8	1.06%
1982	702	12.36%	16	2.28%
1983	689	14.52%	24	3.48%
1984	683	15.49%	29	4.25%
1985	698	14.25%	29	4.15%
1986	727	12.18%	29	3.99%
1987	745	11.41%	27	3.62%
1988	766	9.78%	22	2.87%
1989	801	8.67%	17	2.12%
1990	810	8.17%	20	2.47%

Figure 4.14

Proportion of Working Age Population
Receiving Income Assistance



Working Age Population Receiving Income Assistance: 1982 - 1990
British Columbia

	Less than 12 Mo.		12-23 Months		More than 24 Mo.		Total	
Year	Number	Percent of Wkng Age Population	Number	Percent of Wkng Age Population	Number	Percent of Wkng Age Population	Number	Percent of Wkng Age Population
1982	46,150	2.17%	8,329	0.39%	15,962	0.75%	70,441	3.31%
1983	68,806	3.20%	17,534	0.82%	18,828	0.88%	105,168	4.89%
1984	65,172	2.99%	24,813	1.14%	27,349	1.26%	117,334	5.39%
1985	62,321	2.83%	24,961	1.13%	38,261	1.74%	125,543	5.70%
1986	54,587	2.45%	21,001	0.94%	42,906	1.93%	118,494	5.33%
1987	53,702	2.38%	18,134	0.80%	42,846	1.90%	114,682	5.08%
1988	54,955	2.38%	16,912	0.73%	40,444	1.75%	112,311	4.87%
1989	49,913	2.11%	16,195	0.69%	38,578	1.63%	104,686	4.43%
1990	53,259	2.20%	12,548	0.52%	33,750	1.39%	99,557	4.11%

5. EFFECTS OF RECESSION ON THE BRITISH COLUMBIA LABOUR MARKET

Employment Growth Rates and Unemployment Rates in British Columbia and Ontario

Figure 5.1 shows employment growth rates and unemployment rates from January 1982, when the last recession started to affect the labour market in British Columbia, to May 1985, when the recovery was underway. The figure also shows employment growth rates and unemployment rates from February 1990 to March 1991. On the horizontal axis of **Figure 5.1** the value 1 is either January 1982 or February 1990. These are taken to be the first months in which each recession started to affect employment. Subsequent numbers on the horizontal axis are the numbers of months from the start of each recession.

In the first months of the 1981 to 1984 recession, employment declined in British Columbia at rates of up to 8%, and the number of employed people continued to decline for seventeen consecutive months. Employment growth resumed in mid 1983, but the rates of growth were very low. A second period of employment decline occurred from February 1984 to July of that year. Employment growth remained weak until early in 1985.

Employment growth in British Columbia was not much affected by the recession of 1990, at least until the last quarter of the year. To March 1991 there was only one month in which the year to year level of employment declined, that occurring in January 1991.

In the 1981 to 1984 recession, rapidly declining levels of employment caused large and rapid increases in the rate of unemployment in British Columbia. From January 1982 to July 1982 the province's unemployment rate increased from 8.6% to 14%. Unemployment rates in the range of 13.5% to 15.7% persisted throughout the years 1982 to 1984. In the current recession, the unemployment rate in British Columbia increased from 7.9% in February 1990 to 10.2% in March 1991.

Figure 5.2 shows that in Ontario employment levels fell for seventeen consecutive months after January 1982 but that the rate of decline was slower than it was in British Columbia. The recovery in Ontario, which started in July 1983, preceded the start of the recovery in British Columbia by over a year and rates of employment growth were much higher in the early stages of Ontario's recovery than they were in British Columbia.

In Ontario the onset of the recession of 1990 reduced employment growth rates as early as February of that year and by July, the number of employed people in Ontario had started to decline. By the beginning of 1991 the rates of decline in employment in Ontario were similar to the rates of decline which occurred in that province in the worst months of the last recession.

At the start of the recession of 1981 to 1984 the unemployment rate in Ontario was 7.5%. During the year 1982 the unemployment rate in Ontario increased by about 4.6 percentage points, reaching a peak of 12.1% at the end of that year. At the beginning of 1990 the unemployment rate in Ontario was 5.3%. By March of 1991 it had risen by 4.6 percentage points, to 9.9%.

Figure 5.3 compares employment growth rates and unemployment rates in British Columbia and Ontario from February 1990 to March 1991. British Columbia entered the period with a relatively high rate of unemployment which increased gradually after July 1990. Ontario entered the period with a low rate of unemployment. In March 1991, after fourteen months of slow employment growth or declining employment, the unemployment rate in Ontario about equalled the rate in British Columbia.

The Help Wanted Index in British Columbia and Ontario

The general pattern of recession and recovery may also be observed by reviewing the level of the Help Wanted Index. The index is a measure of change in the job vacancy rate. Statistics Canada calculates the index by measuring the number of lines in the help wanted sections of major newspapers. In **Figure 5.4** the value of the index has been set at 100 in 1981 and changes in the index are depicted in subsequent years for British Columbia and for Ontario.

In 1981 the rate of employment growth was very strong in British Columbia. In Ontario employment growth in 1981 was positive, but was not unusually strong. (Setting the value of the index at 100 for both British Columbia and Ontario obscures the differing levels of demand for labour in the base year.)

In British Columbia the Help Wanted Index fell to less than 50% of its pre-recessionary level in 1982, with little or no recovery through to 1985. The index did not exceed its 1981 value until 1989. To some extent this may be explained by the fact that the base year for the index was one in which the British Columbia economy was growing very rapidly. The index reflects the depth of the last recession in British Columbia and the weakness of the first two years of recovery.

The Help Wanted Index peaked in British Columbia in 1989. By the first part of 1991, it has fallen to about 80% of its 1981 value.

The Job Vacancy Index in Ontario fell to about 60% of its pre-recessionary level after 1981, but recovered strongly from 1984 onward. The index reflects the very rapid expansion of the Ontario economy which occurred from 1985 to 1989. Demand for labour peaked in Ontario in 1988 when the Help Wanted Index reach 179. Demand for labour remained strong in Ontario throughout 1989. By the first part of 1991 the job vacancy index in Ontario had fallen to 70, which was 39% of the peak value in 1988.

Job Vacancies and Unemployment

Economists distinguish three types of unemployment including:

1. cyclical unemployment, caused by fluctuations in the demand for labour associated with recession;
2. frictional unemployment, which reflects the time normally taken to match available workers to job vacancies;
3. structural unemployment, which is caused by mismatches between the skills of available workers, and the skill requirements in vacant jobs.

When large numbers of job vacancies co-exist with relatively high rates of unemployment, this is evidence of a high level of structural unemployment. In **Figure 5.5** the British Columbia Help Wanted Index (old series) is plotted against the overall unemployment rate. That the points plotted for later years are further from the origin of the graph is evidence that the incidence of structural unemployment increased over the period from 1966 to 1988.

Figure 5.6 plots the relationship between the Help Wanted Index (new series) and the rate of unemployment in British Columbia for the years 1981 to 1990. The figure indicates some increase in the incidence of frictional unemployment after 1981.

Figure 5.1

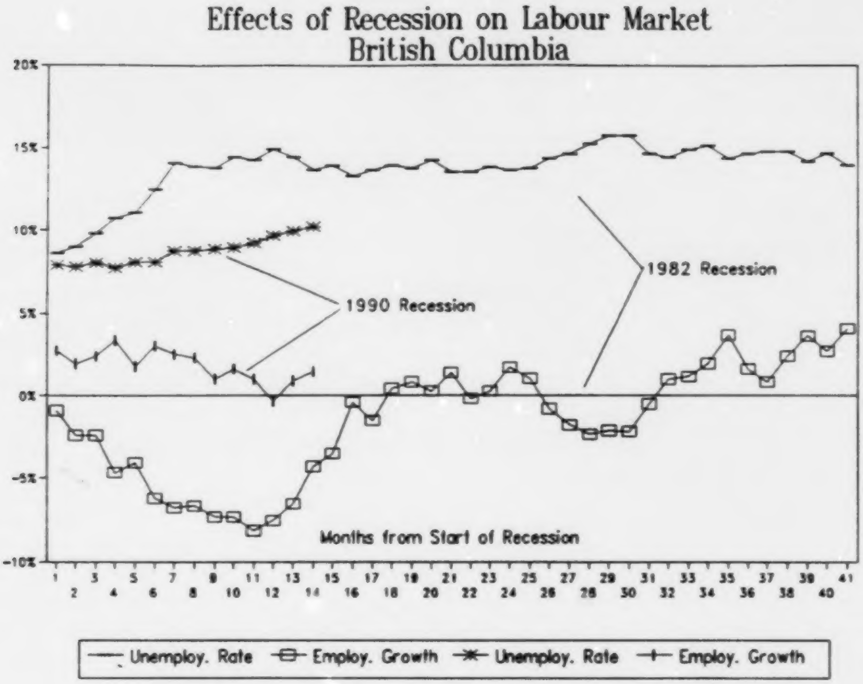

Effects of Recession on Labour Market
British Columbia
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
-5%
-10%
1990 Recession
1982 Recession
Months from Start of Recession
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41
Unemploy. Rate
Employ. Growth
Unemploy. Rate
Employ. Growth

Table 5.1

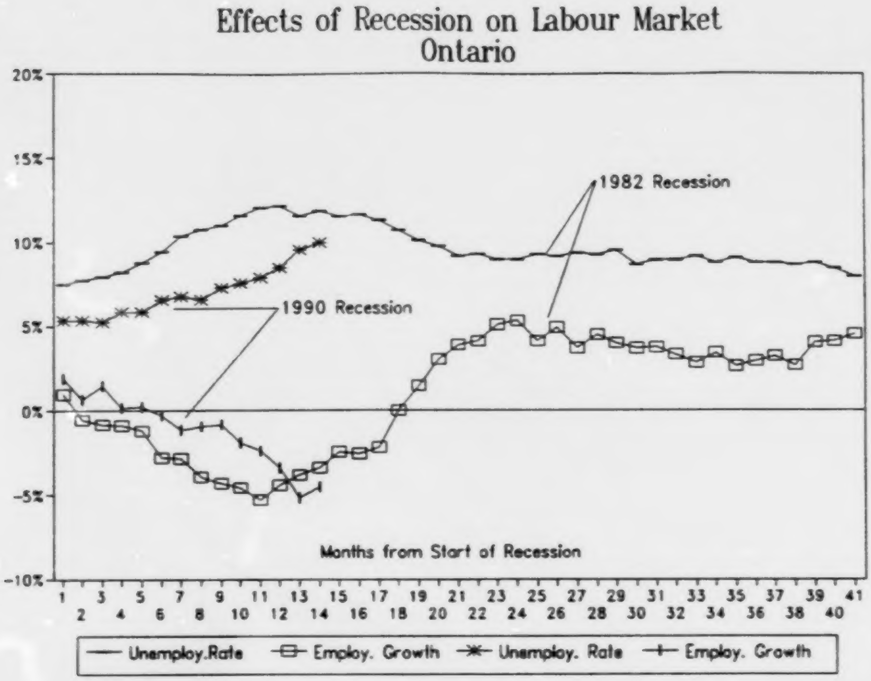
Unemployment Rate and Employment Growth:
Recession Start, January 1982 - Recession End, May 1985
British Columbia

	1982		1983		1984		1985	
Month	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Growth (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Growth (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Growth (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Growth (%)
January	8.60%	-0.87%	14.40%	-6.53%	13.70%	1.02%	14.70%	0.84%
February	9.00%	-2.36%	13.60%	-4.28%	14.30%	-0.76%	14.70%	2.38%
March	9.80%	-2.37%	13.90%	-3.48%	14.60%	-1.76%	14.10%	3.59%
April	10.70%	-4.66%	13.30%	-0.41%	15.20%	-2.33%	14.60%	2.64%
May	11.00%	-4.03%	13.60%	-1.48%	15.70%	-2.09%	13.90%	4.01%
June	12.40%	-6.20%	13.90%	0.42%	15.70%	-2.16%		
July	14.00%	-6.76%	13.70%	0.84%	14.60%	-0.50%		
August	13.80%	-6.62%	14.20%	0.25%	14.40%	1.01%		
September	13.70%	-7.32%	13.50%	1.36%	14.90%	1.17%		
October	14.40%	-7.30%	13.50%	-0.17%	15.10%	1.95%		
November	14.20%	-8.12%	13.80%	0.25%	14.30%	3.64%		
December	14.90%	-7.51%	13.60%	1.71%	14.60%	1.60%		

Recession Start, June 1990 to March 1991
British Columbia

	1990		1991		
Month	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Growth (%)	Month	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Growth (%)
Febuary	7.90%	2.68%	January	9.60%	-0.34%
March	7.80%	1.90%	February	9.90%	0.89%
April	8.00%	2.38%	March	10.20%	1.45%
May	7.70%	3.30%			
June	8.00%	1.74%			
July	8.00%	3.00%			
August	8.70%	2.50%			
September	8.70%	2.28%			
October	8.80%	0.96%			
November	8.90%	1.58%			
December	9.20%	0.96%			

Figure 5.2



Effects of Recession on Labour Market
Ontario

Table 5.2

Unemployment Rate and Employment Growth:
Recession Start, January 1982 - Recession End, May 1985
Ontario

	1982		1983		1984		1985	
Month	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Growth (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Growth (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Growth (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Growth (%)
January	7.50%	0.95%	11.50%	-3.83%	9.20%	4.06%	8.70%	3.20%
February	7.70%	-0.55%	11.80%	-3.41%	9.10%	4.86%	8.60%	2.65%
March	7.90%	-0.84%	11.50%	-2.50%	9.30%	3.68%	8.70%	3.98%
April	8.20%	-0.89%	11.60%	-2.57%	9.20%	4.44%	8.40%	4.06%
May	8.70%	-1.20%	11.30%	-2.18%	9.50%	3.96%	7.90%	4.50%
June	9.40%	-2.82%	10.70%	-0.02%	8.60%	3.66%		
July	10.30%	-2.83%	10.10%	1.43%	8.90%	3.72%		
August	10.70%	-3.92%	9.70%	3.01%	8.90%	3.29%		
September	10.90%	-4.30%	9.10%	3.84%	9.10%	2.79%		
October	11.50%	-4.58%	9.20%	4.05%	8.70%	3.39%		
November	12.00%	-5.31%	8.90%	5.05%	9.00%	2.56%		
December	12.10%	-4.44%	8.90%	5.22%	8.70%	2.91%		

Unemployment Rate and Employment Growth:
Recession Start, February 1990 - March 1991
Ontario

	1990			1991	
Month	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Growth (%)	Month	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Growth (%)
February	5.30%	1.89%	January	8.40%	-3.41%
March	5.30%	0.64%	February	9.50%	-5.20%
April	5.20%	1.42%	March	9.90%	-4.54%
May	5.90%	0.12%			
June	5.80%	0.20%			
July	6.50%	-0.28%			
August	6.70%	-1.15%			
September	6.50%	-0.97%			
October	7.20%	-0.86%			
November	7.50%	-1.93%			
December	7.80%	-2.43%			

Figure 5.3

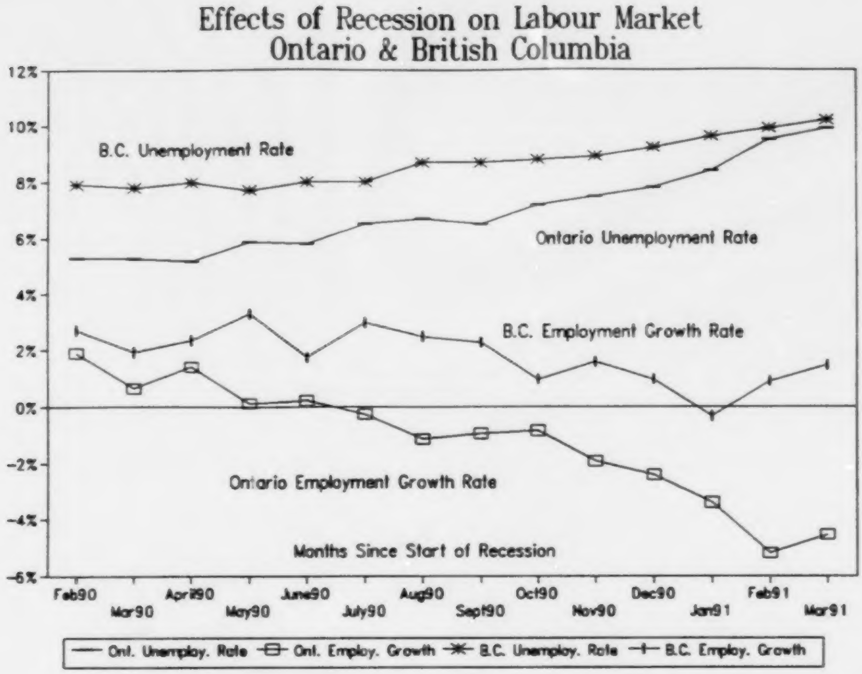
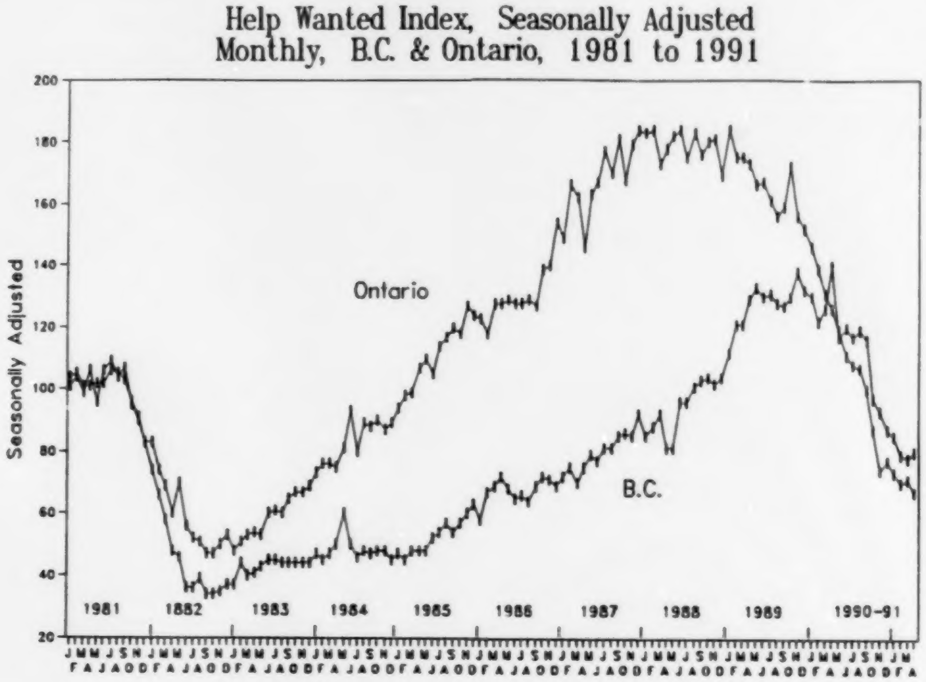

Effects of Recession on Labour Market
Ontario & British Columbia
12%
10%
8%
6%
4%
2%
0%
-2%
-4%
-6%
B.C. Unemployment Rate
Ontario Unemployment Rate
B.C. Employment Growth Rate
Ontario Employment Growth Rate
Months Since Start of Recession
Feb90
Mar90
April90
May90
June90
July90
Aug90
Sept90
Oct90
Nov90
Dec90
Jan91
Feb91
Mar91
Ont. Unemploy. Rate
Ont. Employ. Growth
B.C. Unemploy. Rate
B.C. Employ. Growth

Table 5.3

Unemployment Rate and Emloyment Growth:
Recession Start, February 1990 to March 1991
B.C. and Ontario

1990					1991				
Month	Unemployment Rate B.C. (%)	Employment Growth B.C. (%)	Unemployment Rate Ontario (%)	Employment Growth Ontario (%)	Month	Unemployment Rate B.C. (%)	Employment Growth B.C. (%)	Unemployment Rate Ontario (%)	Employment Growth Ontario (%)
February	7.90%	2.68%	5.30%	1.89%	January	9.60%	-0.34%	8.40%	-3.41%
March	7.80%	1.90%	5.30%	0.64%	February	9.90%	0.89%	9.50%	-5.20%
April	8.00%	2.38%	5.20%	1.42%	March	10.20%	1.45%	9.90%	-4.54%
May	7.70%	3.30%	5.90%	0.12%					
June	8.00%	1.74%	5.80%	0.20%					
July	8.00%	3.00%	6.50%	-0.28%					
August	8.70%	2.50%	6.70%	-1.15%					
September	8.70%	2.28%	6.50%	-0.97%					
October	8.80%	0.96%	7.20%	-0.86%					
November	8.90%	1.58%	7.50%	-1.93%					
December	9.20%	0.96%	7.80%	-2.43%					

Figure 5.4



Help Wanted Index, Yearly Averages: 1981 - 1991
B.C. and Ontario
Indexed to 1981

Year	British Columbia	Ontario
1981	100	100
1982	45	59
1983	43	59
1984	48	83
1985	53	111
1986	68	131
1987	80	168
1988	94	179
1989	128	166
1990	115	110
1991 *	81	70

* Average of January, February and March, 1991.

Table 5.4

Help Wanted Index Annual Averages and
Unemployment Rates: 1981 - 1990
B.C., Both Sexes
(Help Wanted Index indexed to 1981)

Year	British Columbia	Unemployment Rate (%)
1981	100	6.8%
1982	45	12.1%
1983	43	13.8%
1984	48	14.7%
1985	53	14.2%
1986	68	12.5%
1987	80	11.9%
1988	94	10.4%
1989	128	9.1%
1990	115	8.2%

Help Wanted Index Annual Averages and
Unemployment Rates: 1966 - 1988
B.C., Both Sexes
(Help Wanted Index indexed to 1981)

Year	British Columbia	Unemployment Rate (%)
1966	22	4.6%
1967	19	5.1%
1968	20	5.9%
1969	28	5.0%
1970	21	7.7%
1971	23	7.2%
1972	32	7.8%
1973	46	6.7%
1974	64	6.2%
1975	43	8.5%
1976	43	8.6%
1977	42	8.5%
1978	42	8.3%
1979	55	7.6%
1980	70	6.8%
1981	100	6.7%
1982	34	12.1%
1983	26	13.8%
1984	30	14.7%
1985	31	14.1%
1986	40	12.5%
1987	48	11.9%
1988	63	10.3%

Figure 5.5

B.C. Help Wanted Index & Unemployment Rate: 1966 - 1988

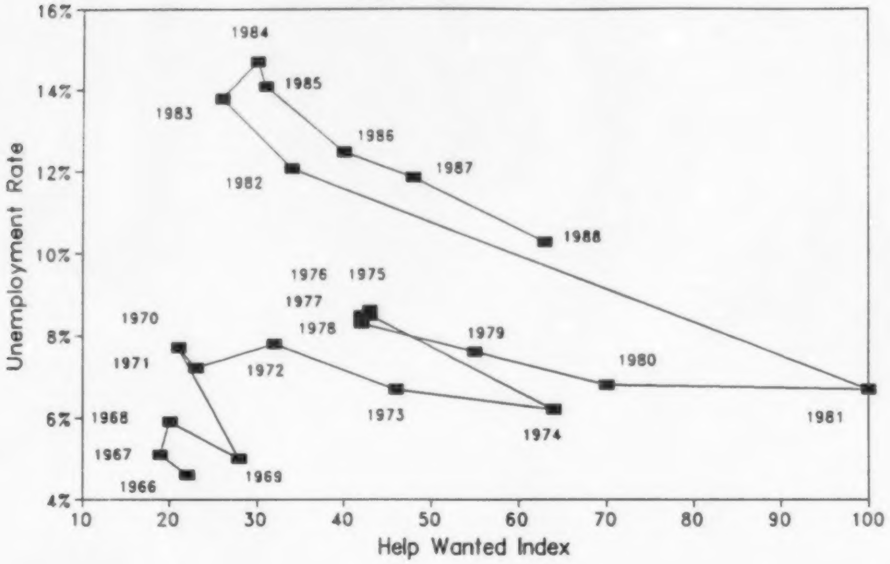
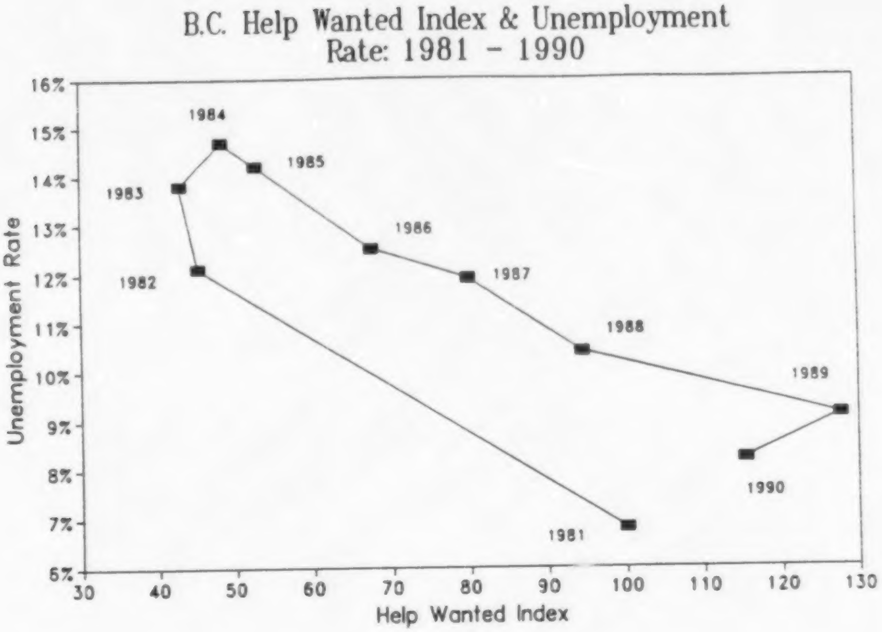


Figure 5.6


B.C. Help Wanted Index & Unemployment Rate: 1981 - 1990
Unemployment Rate
16%
15%
14%
13%
12%
11%
10%
9%
8%
7%
6%
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100
110
120
130
Help Wanted Index
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990

6. CHANGES IN PRICES AND WAGES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

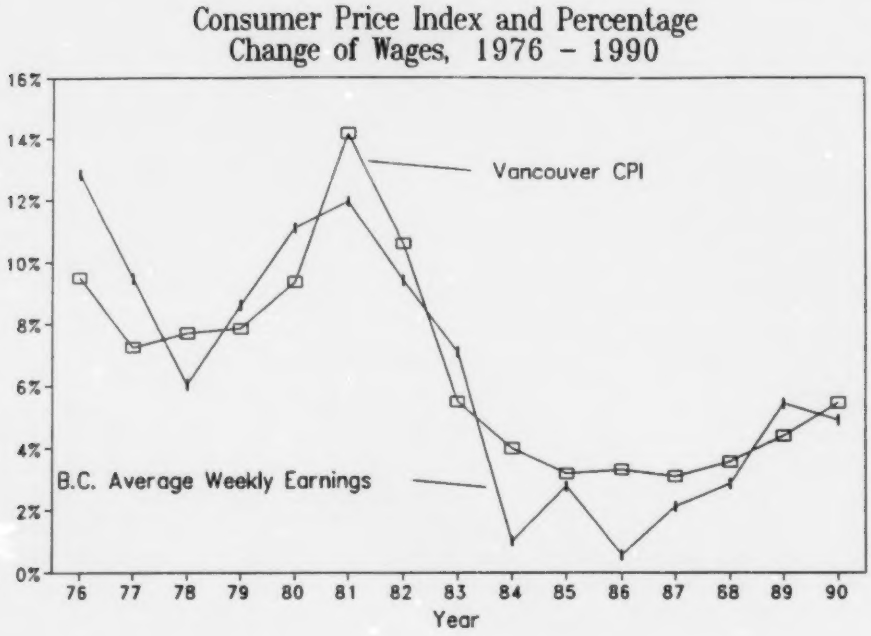
From 1976 to 1990 the Vancouver Consumer Price Index increased from 49.7 to 117.6. Consumer prices increased by a factor of 2.37 or by 237%. In the same time period the average weekly wage in British Columbia increased from $231.40 to $515.91, or by 223%. Over the fourteen year period prices increased at an annual (compounding) rate of 6.35% while the rate of wage increase was 5.89%.

As **Figure 6.1** shows, the rate of wage increase exceeded the rate of price increase in four out of the five years from 1976 to 1980. From 1981 to 1990 price increases exceeded increases in the average weekly wage in eight out of ten years. From 1981 to 1990 the annual compounding rate of price increase averaged 4.8% while the rate of wage increase averaged 4.0%.

To some extent, relatively low rates of wage increase are explained by changes in the distribution of employment among industries. Average weekly wage data by industry are available on a consistently defined basis from 1983 onward. From that year the overall average weekly wage increased from $425.23, to $515.91 in 1990, or by 21.3%. As **Figure 6.2** shows, in the same time period wages in manufacturing increased from $523.69 to $648.38, or by 23.8% while in service industries, the average weekly wage increased from $388.44 to $475.24, a 22.3% increase. The fact that the percentage increases in wages in two sub-sectors both exceed the average increase is explained by a shift in the share of total employment, in favour of relatively low wage service industries.

Figure 6.3 compares average weekly wages in five selected sectors, to the aggregate of all goods and services producing sectors. The highest average weekly wages are paid to people working in mines, quarries and oil wells, with workers in forestry receiving the second highest average weekly wage. Over the period from 1983 to 1990 the gap between wages in mines, quarries and oil wells and forestry has increased. It appears that wage rates in forestry and in construction were affected by the recession. By contrast wages paid to those working in mines, quarries and oil wells increased throughout the period. In finance, insurance and real estate wages increased rapidly from 1983 to 1987. The average weekly wage in public sector jobs increased throughout the period 1983 to 1990.

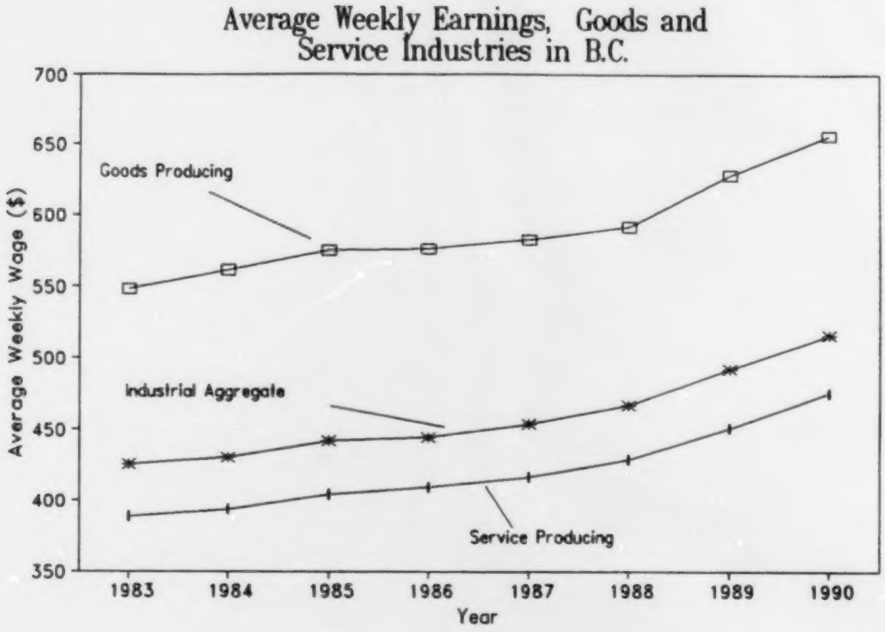
Figure 6.1



Consumer Price Index and Average Weekly Earnings: 1976 - 1990
Indexed to 1986 (1986 = 100)
Vancouver and British Columbia

Vancouver			British Columbia		
Year	Consumer Price Index	Change in CPI (%)	Year	Average Weekly Earnings	Change in Earnings (%)
1976	49.7	9.5%	1976	231.40	12.9%
1977	53.3	7.2%	1977	253.35	9.5%
1978	57.4	7.7%	1978	268.62	6.0%
1979	61.9	7.8%	1979	291.70	8.6%
1980	67.7	9.4%	1980	324.12	11.1%
1981	77.3	14.2%	1981	362.93	12.0%
1982	85.5	10.6%	1982	397.17	9.4%
1983	90.2	5.5%	1983	425.40	7.1%
1984	93.8	4.0%	1984	429.69	1.0%
1985	96.8	3.2%	1985	441.56	2.8%
1986	100.0	3.3%	1986	444.02	0.6%
1987	103.1	3.1%	1987	453.42	2.1%
1988	106.8	3.6%	1988	466.42	2.9%
1989	111.5	4.4%	1989	491.76	5.4%
1990	117.6	5.5%	1990	515.91	4.9%

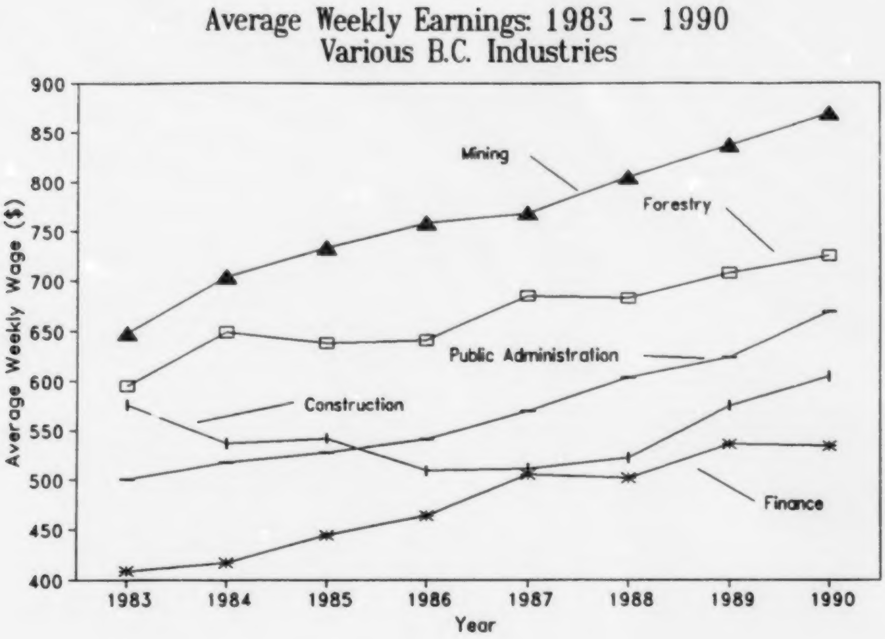
Figure 6.2



Average Weekly Earnings: 1983 - 1990
Goods Producing, Service Industries and Industrial Aggregate
British Columbia

Industry	1983 ($)	1984 ($)	1985 ($)	1986 ($)	1987 ($)	1988 ($)	1989 ($)	1990 ($)
Goods Producing	548.01	561.25	574.91	576.31	582.56	592.00	628.29	656.49
Service Producing Industries	388.44	393.72	404.15	408.83	416.19	428.49	450.73	475.24
Industrial Aggregate	425.23	429.52	441.38	443.84	453.42	466.52	491.63	515.91

Figure 6.3



Average Weekly Earnings, Various Industries: 1983 - 1990
British Columbia

Industry	1983 ($)	1984 ($)	1985 ($)	1986 ($)	1987 ($)	1988 ($)	1989 ($)	1990 ($)
Forestry	594.68	648.66	637.70	639.90	684.69	682.32	707.94	725.05
Mining, Quarries & Oil Wells	647.63	704.20	733.33	758.31	768.54	804.89	836.57	869.12
Manufacturing	523.69	539.46	558.87	569.16	570.95	580.69	617.11	648.38
Construction	576.13	536.79	541.83	509.48	511.40	522.52	574.89	604.03
Transport, Comm. & Other Util.	540.39	544.93	565.41	586.66	593.14	617.42	637.93	675.73
Trade	323.47	332.85	338.61	340.31	352.10	358.05	380.05	402.74
Finance, Insurance, Real Est.	408.92	417.42	444.31	464.29	505.93	502.27	536.31	534.20
Comm. Bus., & Pers'l Service	344.34	346.28	354.82	354.56	358.54	374.47	394.28	420.74
Public Administration	500.70	517.22	527.99	540.67	569.49	603.13	623.87	668.61